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Transcript of the Testimony of

Robert Gerholdt

December 5, 2023

Raymond Thompson v. Joshua Cockrell, et al

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Robert Gerholdt - December 5, 2023

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6 ROBERT GERHOLDT, the City of Manchester? of lawful age, being first duly sworn to tell the truth, A. Just over a year and a half. the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, deposes and Q. We'll get a little more into your background in says on behalf of Plaintiff, as follows: a second, but before we do, I assume given your 5 employment, you've given depositions before? 6 **EXAMINATION** A. Yes, sir, I have. 7 BY MR. GELFAND: 7 Q. Approximately how many times? 8 A. That I can remember, three. 8 Q. Good afternoon. 9 A. Good afternoon. 9 Q. Has that always been in connection with your Q. Could you please state and spell your name for 10 10 work, in other words, criminal cases where you've been the benefit of the court reporter, please, sir? 11 11 deposed? A. Robert Gerholdt. My last name is spelled 12 A. It's always been in connection with cases that I G-E-R-H-O-L-D-T. 13 13 was involved in, yes. Q. And what is your title? Q. Okay. I'm going to go over a couple of ground 14 14 15 A. Police officer. 15 rules quickly, but it sounds like you're pretty familiar 16 Q. Okay. Would you prefer that I refer to you as 16 with the process. 17 Officer Gerholdt over this deposition? 17 A. Please. A. No, that's fine. You can call me Robert, big 18 18 Q. Over the course of this deposition, I'm going to ugly tall guy with glasses. You can call me whatever you 19 19 ask you some questions. Your own attorney may ask you 20 want to. some questions as well. No matter who's asking you the 21 Q. Careful what you offer. question, I'm going to ask that you please only answer 22 A. It's happened before, sir. Trust me. 22 questions if you understand the question. Fair enough? 23 Q. How are you currently employed? 23 A. Yes, sir. I would hope so. 24 A. I'm employed by the City of Manchester. 24 Q. If you don't understand the question, you know, 25 Q. And how long have you been a police officer with please just ask me to rephrase it or ask your own attorney 7 8 1 to rephrase it. I promise you, you won't offend either of different calls for service, for general keeping the us. We'd rather you understand the question and get it peace, restoring or maintaining order in the City. 3 3 right. Fair enough? Q. Do you have any supervisory responsibilities? A. Yes, sir. 4 A. I do not. Q. Similarly, if you do answer a question, I would 5 Q. What is your academic background? assume that you did understand it. Fair enough? 6 6 A. My academic background is -- how far would you 7 A. Absolutely. 7 like me go back, sir? Q. Finally, over the course of this deposition, as Q. Past high school. you see, the court reporter is taking a transcript. I'll A. Past -- oh, past high school. I have an 10 certainly do my best in this way too, but if we can do our 10 associate's degree in Criminal Justice from Southern New best to make sure that we don't talk over one another, Hampshire University. 11 that will make the court reporter not kill us, which will 12 Q. And when did you receive that? be better for all of us today. Fair enough? 13 13 A. I did that just within the last year. 14 A. Yes. I would like to leave here in one piece, 14 Q. Okay. Any other post high school education, 15 15 formal education? 16 Q. Okay. You testified that you've been a police 16 A. I did go to a corrections, a course, the Arizona officer with the City of Manchester for approximately 17 17 Institute of Business and Technology in Mesa, Arizona, but one and a half years; is that correct? 18 18 that -- that was 35 years ago. A. Correct, just a little over one and a half 19 19 Q. Okay. 20 years, yeah. It will be two years in April. 20 A. Many moons. 21 Q. Generally speaking, what are your duties and 21 Q. Did you receive a degree in that? 22 responsibilities as a police officer in the City of A. I received a diploma and that was basically not

23

a college credited type thing. It was when I was going to

go into corrections, and basically it was just a yes, you

passed, Merry Christmas.

23

Manchester?

A. As a police officer, I am responsible for

traffic control. I am responsible for responding to

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3 (Pages 9 to 12)

10

1 Q. Other than your current employment, do you have any previous law enforcement experience?

- 3 A. I do.
- 4 Q. Where?
- 5 A. City of Hazelwood.
- 6 Q. How long did you work for the City of Hazelwood?
- 7 A. Approximately eighteen and a half years.
- 8 Q. As a police officer?
- 9 A. Sixteen of that was as a police officer and then
- 10 two and a half was as a detective.
- 11 Q. Why did you leave the City of Hazelwood?
- 12 A. Better pay. My insurance actually was \$1570 a
- month. That was putting a pretty big financial strain on
- my family. The general atmosphere of the City of
- Hazelwood was -- in all honesty, it was just -- it was
- affecting my marriage, affecting my family and my wife
- pretty much told me to get out of law enforcement or go
- somewhere else. So that's when I chose to come to
- 19 Manchester. Thank God they hired me.
- 20 Q. Did you go straight from Hazelwood Police
- 21 Department to Manchester Police Department?
- 22 A. Yes, it was a matter of one day. I actually
- quit the City of Hazelwood on April 16th, which was a
- Saturday, and I took Sunday off. And Monday, the 18th, I
- started at Manchester.

- Q. When you left Hazelwood, were you a detective?
- A. I was not. I was back on the road.
- 3 Q. Was there anything that happened at Hazelwood
- that caused you to go from detective to police officer?
- A. No, sir. The program that I was in was a
- two-year rotating detective position. It wasn't a permanent spot. I actually got six months, a little bit
- more, before they put me back on the road.
- Q. With the exception of Hazelwood and Manchester,
- 10 have you worked in any other law enforcement capacity? 11
 - A. No, sir.
- 12 Q. Have you ever been the subject of any discipline
- actions in connection with your law enforcement 13
- 14 experience?
- 15 A. No.
- 16 Q. Have you ever been the party to any lawsuit -- a
- party to any lawsuit with the exception of, obviously, the 17
- one that gets us all together today?
 - A. No. sir.
- 20 Q. So just to be clear, you've never sued or been
- 21 sued?

19

- 22 A. Me personally, no.
- 23 Q. Now, as a police officer with as many years of
- 24 experience as you have --
- 25 A. Yes, sir.

11 12

- 1 Q. -- would you agree with me that it's important
- to be thorough in your police work?
- 3 A. Yes, sir.
- 4 O. To be fair?
- 5 A. Yes. sir.
- 6 Q. To keep an open mind?
- 7
- 8 O. To follow all leads?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. To not rush to judgment until you have all the
- 11 relevant evidence?
- 12 A. Yes.

16

20

- 13 Q. And to be honest and accurate in any police
- reports, affidavits, other documents that you prepare in
- connection with your work? 15
 - A. That is correct.
- 17 Q. Now, as a police officer with the City of
- 18 Manchester, would you agree with me that you have a number
- of investigative tools at your disposal?
 - MS. ROBERTSON: Objection, vague.
- 21 A. Can you be more specific?
- 22 Q. (By Mr. Gelfand): Sure. If it is appropriate
- in the context of any particular investigation, you have
- the ability to apply for, and if granted by a judge,
- execute search warrants; correct?

- 1 A. Correct.
 - O. You have the ability to conduct voluntary
 - witness interviews with anybody willing to talk to you in
- connection with a matter; correct?
 - A. Yes.
- 6 Q. You have the ability to issue subpoenas if you
 - need to get documents from third parties or companies;
- 8 correct?
- 9 A. I do not have the ability to issue subpoenas,
- 10 no.

5

- 11 Q. Do you have the ability to request subpoenas?
- 12 A. I do have the ability to request them, yes.
- 13 Q. And have you done that before in connection with 14 cases?
- 15
- 16 Q. You have access to forensics and crime labs that
- 17 can do things like DNA, fingerprints, the whole nine
- yards; correct? 18
- 19 A. St. Louis County, yes, sir.
- 20 Q. Okay. And would you agree with me that it's
- 21 only fair to all parties involved in a matter to use all
- available resources to make sure that you've investigated 22
- 23 any situation fairly and thoroughly?
- 24 MS. ROBERTSON: Objection, calls for
- 25 speculation. You can answer if you know.

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A. I think that question is only based on the

circumstance because not all circumstances are the same.
 O. (By Mr. Gelfand): What are circumstances that

Q. (By Mr. Gelfand): What are circumstances that you have confronted in your police work with the City of

you have confronted in your police work with the City of

5 Manchester Police Department where you have concluded that

you should not use all available resources?

MS. ROBERTSON: Objection, calls for

8 speculation. Object to form. Vague.

A. I don't understand the question, sir.

Q. (By Mr. Gelfand): Are there any instances where

11 you've investigated a matter and decided purposefully not

12 to use law enforcement that you just testified about?

MS. ROBERTSON: Same objection. You can

14 answer if you know.

15 A. I don't know.

16 Q. (By Mr. Gelfand): Did you personally draft any

17 police reports or affidavits in connection with this

18 particular matter?

1

7

9

10

19 A. A police report, yes, sir.

Q. And just broadly speaking -- we'll get into the

21 details of the police report -- would you agree with me

that it's important to be accurate and complete when you

23 draft police reports?

24 A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you do that in this case?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you take great care to make sure that what

3 you said was completely accurate?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Now, what is your understanding of the purpose

6 of a Manchester Police Department police report?

MS. ROBERTSON: Objection, vague.

A. The purpose of a police report is to tell a

 $9\ \$ story, for a lack of better words, what happened, who I

 $1\,0\,\,$ contacted, where I went, what I did, what other people

11 did, what other people said. That is the purpose of a

police report.O. (By M)

Q. (By Mr. Gelfand): Would you agree with me that

14 one of the purposes of a police report is to memorialize

15 what happened?

16 MS. ROBERTSON: Objection, calls for

17 speculation, vague.

A. I don't understand what you mean by memorialize.

Q. (By Mr. Gelfand): To write down what happens,

20 so that there is some sort of written record?

21 A. Yes

Q. And is it fair to say, based on your training

23 and experience as a law enforcement officer, that other

24 law enforcement often rely on police reports?

MS. ROBERTSON: Objection, vague, calls for

15 16

1 speculation.

A. In my experience as a police officer, I would

say that there has been times when my police report

4 directly coincides with -- with another department's case

5 or something they have going on. So in that I would say,6 ves.

Q. (By Mr. Gelfand): Do you provide police reports to prosecutors?

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. Why?

13

MS. ROBERTSON: Objection, vague, calls for

12 speculation, relevance. You can answer.

A. I'm sorry, can you repeat the question, sir?

14 Q. (By Mr. Gelfand): Yeah. Why do you provide

15 police reports to prosecutors?

A. If they ask for it, whether it be for warrant
 application purposes or prosecutors using a police report

18 in reference to another agency's police report.

Q. I want to direct your attention, Officer, to the

20 night of October 22 of 2022. Do you recall that evening?

21 A. Yes.

Q. Were you on duty?

23 A. I was.

Q. And specifically, were you on duty acting in the

25 capacity of a police officer with the City of Manchester

1 Police Department?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you come into contact with an individual

4 named Amara Elmore?

A. Yes, sir.

6 Q. Prior to that evening, to the best of your

7 knowledge, had you ever met Ms. Elmore?

8 **A. No.**

9 Q. Prior to that evening, to the best of your

10 knowledge, had you ever spoken with Ms. Elmore?

A. No, sir.

Q. As far as you know, is it fair to say that's the

13 first time you ever met this woman?

A. I think that's fair, yes, sir.

Q. Did you also come into contact with a -- an

16 individual named Steven Mackenzie?

17 **A.** Yes, sir.

Q. Similarly, had you ever met or spoken with

19 Mr. Mackenzie prior to that evening?

A. No, sir.

Q. Where did you -- well, first of all, when you

22 came into contact with Ms. Elmore and Mr. Mackenzie, were

23 they together?

A. They were together.

Q. Where did you come into contact with them first?

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17

(Pages 17 to 20)

18

A. At 1209 Cottagemill. Specifically, they were in

the street out in front of the residence.

- 3 Q. Okay. And just to be clear, so that we can
- 4 speed through some of this --
- 5 A. Absolutely.

1

- 6 Q. -- that is a residential address owned by a
- Jeremiah -- I'm sorry, owned by Raymond Thompson; correct?
- A. That is correct, sir.
- 9 Q. Okay. I'm going to refer to that as
- 10 Mr. Thompson's house. Fair enough?
- 11 A. Yes, sir, absolutely.
- 12 Q. When you -- prior to arriving at the scene, why
- 13 did you respond to that address?
- 14 A. Dispatch had sent me there in reference to a
- 15 recover a failed to return vehicle. That's the way it
- 16 came out.
- 17 Q. Did you then respond to that call, so to speak,
- by traveling in your police car to that residence?
- 19 A. Yes. I was dispatched as initially an assist
- 20 car. Officer Cockrell was dispatched. It was his sector
- that night, but I got there first.
- 22 Q. Who is Officer Cockrell?
- 23 A. Officer Joshua Cockrell was the assist officer.
- 24 Q. Was there any significance to what transpired
- with the fact that you got there first?

- A. No, sir. I just -- luck of the draw. Got there
- 2 first.
- 3 Q. Did it still remain Officer Cockrell's call or
- was it yours?
- A. No, sir. It was -- I took the call since I got
- 6 there first, and I was already talking to Ms. Elmore and
- Mr. Mackenzie prior to Officer Cockrell being there.
 - Q. When you traveled to the residence, did you
- 9 travel there with lights and sirens?
- 10 A. No. sir.
- 11 Q. Lights or sirens?
- 12 A. Lights or sirens? No, sir.
- 13 Q. When you arrived at the residence, you testified
- 14 that Ms. Elmore and Mr. Mackenzie were standing in the
- 15
- 16 A. Yes, sir.
- 17 Q. What did you do?
- 18 A. I got out and I contacted them.
- 19 Q. What, if anything, did you say?
- 20 A. I don't remember exactly what I said to them, so
- 21 I can't -- I can't tell you.
- 22 Q. Approximately what time of day was this on
- 23 October 22 of 2022?
- 24 A. It was just a little after 11:00 p.m. or 2300
- hours, 2316 specifically in the police report.

19 20

- 1 Q. Okay. So approximately 11:15 p.m.?
- 2
- 3 Q. How long were you on-scene before you initially

A. I cannot -- I can't say exactly how long I was

4 left?

5

- 6 there.
- 7
- Q. Approximately how long were you on-scene?
- 8 A. Twenty, 25 minutes.
- 9 Q. When you approached Ms. Elmore and
- 10 Mr. Mackenzie, what, if anything, did they say to you,
- 11 other than --
- 12 A. I remember that they were all smiles. They were
- saying, Hi, how you doing. I -- like I said, I don't
- remember exactly what I said to them, but normally when I
- meet people I say hello, how are you, what's going on?
- 16 But I can't -- I can't testify to that because I don't
- 17 remember. Just --
- 18 Q. Do you remember anything they said to you?
- A. Oh, I remember a lot. Yeah. But I'm just
- 20 saying, what I said to them.
- 21 Q. Fair enough.
- 2.2 A. Okay. That's just -- normally, that's what I
- would say to people, just to kind of break the ice, but I
- can't specifically say what I said to them, but as far as
- what they said to me, yes, sir, I do remember.

- 1 Q. What did each of them say to you?
- 2 A. So Ms. Elmore was the one that did most of the
- talking. She stated that her father, Nathan Rench, had
- loaned a 2003 Harley-Davidson trike to a friend of -- or a
- then friend. Apparently, they weren't friends anymore. A
- then friend of his named Raymond Thompson. She said that
- she was told by Nathan Rench that after the bike had been
- loaned for a couple of weeks, Raymond Thompson moved --
- moved out of Owensville and did not return the bike. She
- 10 said that Nathan Rench asked her and Mackenzie, both, if
- 11 they would recover the bike for him.
- 12 Q. Prior to arriving at Mr. Thompson's house that
- 13 evening, had you ever spoken with Nathan Rench?
 - A. No, sir.
- 15 Q. To the best of your knowledge, had you ever met
- 16 Nathan Rench?
- 17 A. No idea who he was.
- 18 Q. This was just a random name out of the blue;
- 19 correct?

- 20 A. Yes, sir.
- 21 Q. So what did you do next?
- 22 A. She continued her story. After she told me
- 23 that, she said that Nathan Rench showed her a picture of a
- title that had his information on it. She took a picture
- of that title and then she showed that to me. She showed

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6 (Pages 21 to 24)

21 22

- 1 me a title that -- a picture of a title on a phone that
- 2 had a name, a VIN number and the year, make and model of
- the bike.
- 4 Q. Let's back up for a second.
- 5 A. Absolutely.
- 6 Q. Is everything you just testified about a
- conversation that you had prior to, as I understand it,
- knocking on the door of Mr. Thompson's house?
- 9 A. Yes, sir, it is.
- 10 Q. With respect to what she showed you, if I
- understand your testimony correctly, it was a phone, her 11
- phone, depicting what was a picture of a picture of a
- 13 title?
- 14 A. Yes, sir.
- 15 Q. Or I should say a purported title.
- 16 A. I'm sorry?
- 17 Q. I should say a purported title.
- 18 A. A purported title. I don't know what the word
- 19 purported means, but --
- 20 Q. Supposed.
- 21 A. Yes, sir.
- 22 Q. In other words, you now understand that wasn't
- 23 the real title; right?
- 24 A. I'm sorry, sir?
- 25 Q. You now understand that wasn't a real title;

correct?

2

6

8

10

17

- MS. ROBERTSON: Objection objection,
- 3 calls for speculation, calls for a legal
- 4 conclusion. You can answer if you know.
- 5 A. At the time, no, I did not know that.
 - Q. (By Mr. Gelfand): I'm asking you now.
- 7 A. Now, sir?
 - Q. Yes.
- 9 A. As we stand here today?
 - Q. Yes. So that's what I mean by a purported
- 11 title.
- 12
- 13 Q. At the time that she showed you the picture of
- 14 the picture on the phone, did she show you any other
- 15 documents?
- 16 A. No, sir.
 - Q. Or any other pictures to be precise?
- 18 A. She showed a picture of the motorcycle.
- Q. What did you do after she showed you this 19
- 20 picture of a picture?
- 21 A. She continued her statement. Said that they
- 22 were in the area and they found Mr. Thompson's address on
- CaseNet and they came to the address that evening. They
- 24 said that they or -- I'm sorry, she said that they did not
- 25 see the bike in the driveway. So the gate was open, so

23 24

- 1 they looked in the backyard. They saw the bike in the
- back and then they called the police.
- 3 Q. Was there anybody present that evening who
- claimed to be Nathan Rench? 4
 - A. No. sir.
- 6 Q. Did you do anything that evening to investigate
- the relationship, if any, between Ms. Elmore and
- Mr. Rench?

5

- 9 A. For the -- for the entire time that it was
- 10 there, is that what you're asking?
- 11 Q. Yes.
- 12 A. Yes. However, Ms. Elmore stated that the reason
- 13 why Nathan Rench wasn't there was because he had been in a
- 14 recent motorcycle accident and had a stroke and he had to
- 15 get around on a motorized scooter. That's why he wasn't
- 16 there.
- 17 Q. Did you know at the time whether anything she
- was telling you was true or untrue? 18
- 19 A. I had no reason to believe I was being lied to.
- 20 Q. In fairness, you also had no reason to believe
- you weren't being lied to; correct? 21
- 22 A. Yes, sir.
- 23 Q. Did you do anything to investigate the actual
- 24 relationship that evening between Ms. Elmore and Mr.
- 25 Rench?

- 1 A. We're skipping ahead a little bit, after --2
 - O. Let's -- let's do this, because that's fair.
- A. Okav. 3

- 4 Q. And I don't want to confuse --
 - A. Right, you're -- you're skipping --
- 6 O. -- the record.
- 7 A. -- way ahead.
- 8 Q. My understanding, which is -- let's get our
- 9 bearings for a second.
- 10 A. Sure.
- 11 Q. My understanding is that you responded to
- 12 Mr. Thompson's house that evening multiple nights --
- 13 multiple times; correct?
- 14 A. That is correct.
- 15 Q. Okay. What you've previous -- what you've been
- 16 testifying about so far is the first response; correct?
- 17 A. The first response, yes, sir.
- 18 Q. Let's stay on that right now --
- 19 A. Yes, sir.
- 20 Q. -- until we expressly get to the next.
- 21 A. Okay. Absolutely.
- 22 Q. During that first response, did you do anything
- 23 at all to investigate how Ms. Elmore and Mr. Rench were
- actually related, if at all? 24
- 25 A. No, sir.

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25

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26

Q. During that first response at the time at

Mr. Thompson's house, did you do anything at all to

investigate how, if at all, Mr. Mackenzie and Mr. Rench

were actually related? 4

5 A. No, sir, I had no reason.

Q. So after they showed you these documents and

7 told you that they believed the bike was in the back, what

did you do?

9 A. At that point, I went and I knocked on the door,

10 on the front door of Mr. Thompson's residence several

times. Knocked on the door, rang the doorbell to try to

get -- contact somebody at the house.

13 Q. Did you do anything to determine who lived in

14 that house?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. What did you do?

17 A. As I was coming back down, Mr. Mackenzie was

like, there's the bike right there. You can see it back

behind the fence, the open fence. As I was walking

20 towards the driveway, there was a vehicle parked in the

21 driveway. I ran the plate on the vehicle and it came back

22 to Raymond Thompson.

23 Q. Prior to that evening, had you ever had any

24 interactions with Mr. Thompson that you recall?

25 A. No, sir. Q. Prior to that evening, had you ever been to his

residence for any reason? A. Specifically, no. I have driven by it probably

hundreds of times, but specifically for a call, no.

Q. When you say "driven by it," you just mean

6 because it's in Manchester and you --

A. General patrol.

Q. Patrol, not because there was anything at the

9 house?

8

13

15

10 A. No, sir.

11 Q. Now, when you knocked on the door multiple

12 times, did you quickly conclude that nobody was home?

A. Quickly? Not quickly.

14 Q. Did you conclude that nobody was home?

A. I concluded that nobody was home, yes, sir.

16 Q. What led you to conclude that nobody was home?

17 A. Nobody answered the door.

18 Q. Simple enough; right?

19 A. What's that?

20 Q. Simple enough; right?

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 Q. Did you pick up the phone and try to call

23 Mr. Thompson?

24 A. I did not.

Q. You testified that you then walked down from the 25

27 28

front door? 1

5

18

2 A. Correct.

Q. And around to the driveway; is that correct? 3

4 A. That is correct, sir.

Q. What did you do at that point?

A. As I previously stated, there was a vehicle

parked in the driveway. I ran the plate on the vehicle

and it came back to Mr. Thompson.

Q. Was the only significance of that from a law

10 enforcement perspective that it corroborated that this was

11 Mr. Thompson's house?

12 A. I don't understand the question.

13 Q. Why -- why did you run the plate to the vehicle?

14 A. To see who it came back to and that would

15 conclude that it -- it was Mr. Thompson's residence.

Q. And that was the only point, right, to figure 16

17 out who lived there?

A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. Then what did you do?

20 A. After that, I did look in the backyard -- or I'm

sorry, I looked in the back behind the fence and, I saw

22 that the motorcycle sitting back there that resembled the

23 picture that they showed me.

Q. Let's back up for a second. Do you readily

admit that you walked past the privacy fence into the

backyard of the house? 1

MS. ROBERTSON: Objection, mischaracterizes

3 his testimony.

4 MR. GELFAND: I'm asking him a question.

5 It wasn't mischaracterizing anything.

6 A. At the point that we're at right now, that

7 answer is no, because I had not yet gone into the

8

9 Q. (By Mr. Gelfand): Okay. At any point that

10 evening in this first time that you responded to the house

11

14

2

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. -- did you enter Mr. Thompson's backyard?

A. Yes, sir.

15 Q. Did all four of you enter Mr. Thompson's

16 backyard?

17 A. At the same time?

18 Q. Or simultaneously?

19 A. No, not simultaneously, no.

Q. Tell me what happened. What was the order of 2.0

21 people that entered the backyard?

A. Myself and Officer Cockrell went back first. 22

And then Amara Elmore and Steven Mackenzie came back after 2.3

24

25 Q. Was there a time where you and Officer Cockrell Case: 4:23-cv-00133-SRW Doc. #: 39-8 Filed: 01/11/24 Page: 9 of 52 PageID #:

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29

8 (Pages 29 to 32)

1 were in the backyard and asked Ms. Elmore and Mr.

2 Mackenzie to wait?

3 A. I did tell them to wait.

Q. Why?

4

17

5

5 A. Because I didn't know what was going on. I

didn't know anything about Mr. Thompson. I didn't want

7 them just willy-nilly coming back into a backyard, getting

8 hurt, slipping, falling or anything else that might cause

9 any other issues.

Q. And during that time, before Ms. Elmore and Mr.

11 Mackenzie came into the backyard, Officer Cockrell was

12 with you in the backyard?

13 **A. Yes, sir.**

14 Q. Approximately how long were you and Officer

15 Cockrell in the backyard before Ms. Elmore and Mr.

16 Mackenzie were cleared by you to come to the backyard?

A. I don't know the answer to that.

Q. Are we talking seconds, minutes, days or --

19 A. We're not talking days. We're not talking

20 hours. So I would say minutes.

Q. Okay. When you and Officer Cockrell entered the

22 backyard at that time -- I'm just trying to show what

23 happened here.

24 **A. Mm-hm.**

Q. What were each of you doing?

A. When we entered the backyard?

2 O. Yes.

1

3 A. I do not know what Officer Cockrell was doing.

4 My attention was on what was going on. His was to back me

30

5 up, so I don't -- I can't tell you what he does. I can't

6 testify to that.

7 Q. What did you do?

A. I walked straight to the motorcycle. I located

9 the VIN number on the right front fork assembly. I ran

10 the VIN. First of all, I verified it through the picture

 $11 \,\,$ that they showed me. And then I ran the VIN through our

12 computer dispatch.

Q. So just to understand what you're saying, I

14 understand you didn't watch specifically what Officer

15 Cockrell was doing?

16 A. Correct.

17

Q. But when you went into the backyard before

18 clearing Ms. Elmore and Mr. Mackenzie to come into the

19 backyard, you were going in the backyard to try to find

20 the motorcycle?

A. That's correct. Well, not to try and find it,

22 no. I knew exactly where it was because I could see it.

Q. Okay. And then you walked up to what you

24 believed was the motorcycle; correct?

25 A. Yes, sir. Yes, sir.

31 32

1 Q. And you searched for the VIN; correct?

2 A. Correct.

3 Q. Where was the VIN?

4 A. Right front fork assembly.

Q. And you testified that the VIN matched, so to

6 speak, the VIN that was on the picture of a picture that

7 Ms. Elmore showed you; correct?

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 Q. Is there anything else you did in the backyard

10 before clearing Ms. Elmore and Mr. Mackenzie to come into

11 the backyard?

12 A. So the answer to that question is, yes.

13 However, I think it should be noted that I at no point --

14 when I ran the VIN and it came back to Nathan Rench,

15 that -- which is what I did next, Amara Elmore and Steven

16 Mackenzie walked back in there. I didn't say, okay, guys,

17 come on back. I didn't say anything like that. They just

18 walked back into the backyard, and I did not stop them at

19 that point.

Q. Okay. What else did you do in the backyard

21 then?

22 A. Nothing. As far as -- I mean, as far as the

23 motorcycle is concerned, I didn't go anywhere else. I

didn't touch anything else. I never put my hands on the

5 motorcycle at any point. I simply looked at it and ran

1 the information. Once it came back to it, Steven

2 Mackenzie came, had a key in his hand. At that point, he

started the motorcycle and took it.

Q. So we're going to get into that in a second.

A. Absolutely.

6 Q. And I can show it to you if you want, but my

7 understanding is there's a reference in a police report

8 that you prepared whereby you claim to attempt to --

A. Oh.

Q. -- make statements to I believe it was an open

11 window --

5

9

12 A. An open window.

Q. - of the house.

14 A. An open window, yes.

Q. Can you tell me what happened there?

16 A. Absolutely. So there was -- in the rear of the

17 residence there is -- it's two-story because there was an

upper window that was open and I -- once again I yelled my

19 name, Manchester Police Department, nobody answered again.

20 I -- yes.

Q. And where were you standing when you yelled into

22 that window?

A. Next to the motorcycle.

Q. You testified a minute ago that Mr. Mackenzie

25 had a key in his hand?

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33

9 (Pages 33 to 36)

34

1 A. Yes, sir.

4

15

Q. What did the key look like?

3 **A.** I do not remember.

Q. What then did he do?

5 A. I was standing on the right side of the

6 motorcycle. The motorcycle was facing west. He came up

7 on the left side of the motorcycle, had the key in his

8 right hand, just like this (indicating). He went around

9 to the rear of the bike and then the bike started, very

10 loudly I might say.

Q. Did he represent to you that this was a key to

12 the motorcycle?

13 **A. I don't remember.**

Q. Was that the inference?

A. Well, if he had the key in his hand, that would

16 be the inference. If he --

Q. He's not going into the house; right?

18 A. Right, but he never once said this is the key

19 to -- to my recollection, that this is the key to the

20 motorcycle. He had the key in his hand.

Q. Did you watch him use the key to start the

22 motorcycle?

23 **A.** I did not.

Q. Then what happened?

25 A. The motorcycle started, rattled windows within

1 about an eight-block radius, and then he drove the

2 motorcycle out of the gate. Amara Elmore followed him and

3 she got into her vehicle and they drove away.

Q. When you initially responded to this call, did

5 you utilize a dash cam?

A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. What is a dash cam?

A. So the dash cam is a -- it's a camera that's

9 mounted -- every department's different. The City of

10 Manchester, it looks like a little cross, sits right above

11 the center of the vehicle or the center of the interior of 12 the vehicle, has a computer or a monitor, a little --

13 probably about a 5-inch monitor that sits right above the

14 passenger seat. And yes, I did use it.

Q. When you were on scene, were you wearing what we

16 commonly call a body cam or a body camera?

A. Yes, sir.

17

Q. Are you familiar with what a body cam is?

19 A. I would hope so, yes, sir.

Q. I would hope so, too. What is a body cam?

21 A. Pardon me?

Q. What is a body cam?

A. A body camera -- once again, each department is

different. The City of Hazelwood's about the size of a

25 small book. These are about the size of a little tiny

35 36

1 half pack of cigarettes. Basically, it's a mobile camera

that will capture audio and video of an incident.

Q. Do police officers at the Manchester Police

4 Department during this time period have control over

5 whether the body cam is recording at any given time?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. And is that as simple as basically pushing a

8 button?

9 **A.** It is.

Q. When a body cam is recording, and I'm just

11 asking about the Manchester Police body cam --

12 **A. Sure.**

Q. - that you were wearing that night. When a

14 body cam is recording, is there any indicia on the body

15 cam to show that it's on and that it's recording?

16 A. Yes, sir. I would like to go back to one thing

17 real quick. There are instances where the body cam is

18 activated automatically. So when the body cam and the car

19 camera are paired together, whenever you turn on, let's

20 say, your lights, your emergency lights, both the body

21 camera and the car camera are automatically activated.

22 Another instance would be if you're driving faster than

23 75 miles an hour, the body camera and the car camera

automatically activate and the only way to deactivate them

25 is to physically turn them off.

1 So to answer your question, yes, there is a

green status light, which shows the camera power is on.

3 There is also a very very small, very small, even for my

4 eyes, LED screen. It's not even a LED, it just like a

5 digital readout up top that shows the power status, the

6 number of calls or the number of recordings that are

7 currently being recorded on it and a -- I think a serial

8 number.

9 Q. And what, if any, significance is there to a red

10 light when it's enabled?

11 A. When the red light is enabled, that means that

12 the recording is active, which is the same case for the

13 car camera. Whenever the body cam is in current record

 $14\,\,$ mode, there's also a red light that shows up on the

15 button.

Q. When you responded to this particular scene andenabled the dash cam and the body cam, was that one of the

18 automatic instances or was that manual?

19 A. That was a manual thing, sir. And it should

20 also be noted that the car camera and the body camera work

21 opposite of each other. So as I said before, when you

22 turn on the lights, that the dash cam and then it

23 activates the body camera. By the same token, if I

24 respond to a scene and I push the record button on my body

camera, that activates the car camera. So they're both

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4

37

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38

2 Q. So in this particular instance, both the body

3 camera and the car camera, the dash camera were recording?

A. Yes, sir. When I exited my vehicle -- actually

5 before I exited my vehicle, I hit the button, it started

recording. Normally, during the day -- if you watch my

7 recordings, I have to go like this (demonstrating) to make

sure the red light's on because the sun's shining and --

and you can't see, but if it's dark, I can look down and

10 see the red light.

paired together.

11 Q. And you saw the red light in this instance?

12

13 Q. And is it fair to say you didn't turn it off;

14 right?

4

15 A. No, sir.

Q. Is that what it's called? 16

17 A. No, sir.

18 Q. So the dash camera --

19 A. No, wait, it is fair. I'm sorry.

20 Q. It is fair to say that?

21 A. It is fair to say that I did not turn it off.

2.2 That is correct.

23 Q. I appreciate that clarification. Sometimes we

24 have records that --

25 A. That's all good, man. Don't worry about it. Q. I appreciate that. So bottom line, though, when

we just cut to the chase --

3 A. Are we making her mad yet?

Q. If we cut to the chase, throughout the entirety

of all of your interactions with Ms. Elmore, Mr. Mackenzie

walking up to the front door, the backyard, that was all

recorded on body cam and dash cam with the caveat that

some of it may not have been visible from the dash cam?

9 A. Correct. So the body cam would have picked up 100 percent of everything I did. The dash cam would have

picked up my initial contact with Elmore and Mackenzie and

then would have shown a really pretty picture of the back

of their vehicle for the rest of the time.

Q. Does the dash cam record audio? 14

15 A. The dash cam does record audio, but noted that

16 the dash cam only records the audio from inside the

17 vehicle.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. It does not record outside. That would be cool

20 if it did.

21 O. Have you ever recommended that to your --

22 A. You know, I'm not really sure I want to go to

23 that planet yet, but I'm sure that -- that in some cases,

24 it does.

25 Q. When you entered -- let's back up for a second.

39 40

1 A. Absolutely.

2

11

Q. I think there's some concern, if I understood

your testimony earlier correctly, with whether we

characterize the part of Mr. Thompson's property as a

backyard or as anything else. I'm going to call it the

backyard, but let's just get our terms straight for a 6

second. There is a part of Mr. Thompson's private property that you entered that was enclosed by a privacy

fence; correct?

10 A. Yes, sir.

Q. And that part had concrete or asphalt; in other

12 words, not grass; correct?

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. And that is the part where you testified the

motorcycle that Mr. Mackenzie and Ms. Elmore ultimately 15

left with was initially parked; correct?

17 A. If you're -- if I understand you correctly,

18 which I'm hoping I do, you're saying that -- the question

you're asking me is that the motorcycle was parked behind

that privacy fence?

21 Q. Yes.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Okay. I'm going to call that the backyard for

purposes of this deposition with the understanding that if

you guys want to call it something else over the course of

this litigation, feel free to.

A. Backyard is fine. I'm sure she'll appreciate

3 that, too.

Q. Great. When you entered the backyard, you had

5 to actually cross a privacy fence; correct? There was a

gate? 7

11

20

A. A threshold.

8 Q. Yes. And you crossed that threshold onto

Mr. Thompson's private property; correct?

10 A. Yes, sir.

Q. At that time, did you have a search warrant?

12 A. No. sir.

13 Q. At that time, had you ever even attempted to

14 apply for a search warrant?

15 A. No, sir.

16 Q. Is it fair to say that at that time you did not

17 believe you had probable cause to obtain a search warrant? 18

A. To obtain a search warrant?

19

MS. ROBERTSON: Objection, misconstrues the

21 testimony and evidence in this matter, assumes

22 facts not in evidence, calls for a legal

23 conclusion, calls for speculation. You can

24 answer if you know.

25 A. I don't know. Case: 4:23-cv-00133-SRW Filed: 01/11/24 Page: 12 of 52 PageID Doc. #: 39-8

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41

11 (Pages 41 to 44)

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Q. (By Mr. Gelfand): Were you conducting a

2 criminal investigation?

3 A. No, sir.

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Q. So just to focus on the facts for a second,

5 notwithstanding your counsel's objections, you didn't have

a search warrant; correct?

A. No. sir.

8 Q. You had never even attempted to obtain a search

warrant permitting you to enter the backyard; correct?

A. Yes, that is correct.

11 Q. And your purpose in entering the backyard as you

12 previously testified to was to locate and look at the VIN

number on the motorcycle; correct?

14 A. Correct.

Q. Did you believe there were exigent

circumstances? 16

17 A. Can you define exigent circumstances for me?

18 Q. Do you know what exigent circumstances are?

A. I do. But as far as in this case, which is

20 different from all other cases, what I had was I was there

21 to keep the peace and restore order. I had what

Ms. Elmore had told me. I had a picture of the VIN. I

had a picture of the motorcycle. I had tried to contact

somebody at the residence, so yes. 2.4

25 Q. Let's back up for a second. A. Okav.

Q. Did you believe when you entered the backyard

that anyone -- that a human being was in the backyard in

need of assistance?

5 A. No.

Q. For example, a hurt person saying help?

7 A. I -- no, that would have complicated things.

8 No.

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9 Q. You testified that you were not conducting a

10 criminal investigation; correct? 11

A. Correct.

12 Q. So you weren't worrying about, you know, drugs

being flushed down the toilet, for example, those kinds of 13

14 things; correct?

A. No, sir, I wasn't, but --

16 Q. You used the phrase you were there to keep the

17 peace and restore order; is that correct?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Who was threatening the peace?

20 MS. ROBERTSON: Objection, mischaracterizes

21 the testimony and evidence, assumes facts not in

22 evidence, calls for --

23 Q. (By Mr. Gelfand): You can answer --

MS. ROBERTSON: -- calls for speculation.

25 You can answer if you know.

43

1 A. I don't know.

Q. (By Mr. Gelfand): Did you have Mr. Thompson's

consent to enter the backyard?

A. Mr. Thompson was not there.

O. So no?

A. Or nobody was there. So I could not obtain his

7 consent.

5

6

Q. Okay. So the bottom line is, you would agree

you did not have Mr. Thompson's consent; correct?

10 A. I would agree, yes.

11 Q. Okay. I want to show you -- do you recall

12 responding to written interrogatories in connection with

13 this case?

14 A. Those are very big words, sir. Can you be a

15 little bit more --

16 Q. Sure. That's fair. I don't know why we use

some words that we use as lawyers. Do you recall that we

asked you a bunch of questions in writing, and I'm sure

with the benefit of your counsel you provided written 19

20 responses to those questions?

21 A. Yes, sir. That's -- thank you, I understand

22 that.

23 Q. Okay. I have no idea why we don't just call

them questions, but that's neither here nor there. I am

going to show you what I'm going to mark as Exhibit 12 if

1 I can, please.

(Plaintiff's Deposition Exhibit No. 12

3 was marked for identification.)

4 Q. (By Mr. Gelfand): Do you recognize what --

first of all, do you have Exhibit 12 in front of you?

A. I have it in front of me, yes.

Q. Okay. And do you recognize Exhibit 12 as the

8 written responses to questions that we asked you?

A. Correct. Yes, sorry.

10 Q. And did you respond to these under oath?

11 A. Under oath?

12 MS. ROBERTSON: Do you remember signing a

13 verification?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. (By Mr. Gelfand): Okay.

16 A. Thank you. I'm sorry.

17 Q. Not a trick question. You're good. In your

written interrogatories, I'm going to direct your 18

19 attention -- I'm going to jump around a little bit, but

20 I'm going to direct your attention to Interrogatory 17 on

21 page 9.

22 A. Way in the back. Can I fold this?

23 Q. Yeah. Do you see 17?

24 A. Yes. sir.

25 Q. It says, Defendant states this was not a Case: 4:23-cv-00133-SRW Filed: 01/11/24 Page: 13 of 52 PageID Doc. #: 39-8

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12 (Pages 45 to 48)

46

criminal investigation but a standby to keep the peace.

2 A. Correct.

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correct?

3 Q. What did you mean by that?

A. Basically, I responded to a call that there was

5 no criminal intent. There was nothing to lead me to

believe that there was going to be a criminal

investigation. That's why I treated it as a -- as a

simple keep the peace call. I had people there that were

9 upset for some reason that their father's motorcycle

10 hadn't been returned. They were upset about it, and I was

there to keep the peace and do what I could to bring

resolution to it.

Q. If we direct your attention to Interrogatory

Number 15 -- let's back up for a second. 14

A. Okay.

16 Q. Would you agree with me that Mr. Thompson did

17 nothing to threaten the peace, so to speak?

18 A. Absolutely. He wasn't there, so he couldn't.

Q. Now, if we go to Number 15 on page 8.

20 A. Okay.

21 Q. Do you see where we asked you number C, if you

did enter Plaintiff's property without a warrant, on what

1 legal authority, if any, did you rely to enter Plaintiff's

caretaker exception to the warrant requirement?

legal conclusion. I know I stated it before.

property what you wrote here, which is the community

MS. ROBERTSON: Same objection, calls for a

Q. (By Mr. Gelfand): And that was the answer you

gave in Interrogatory Number 15 here on page 8; correct?

Q. And that is what you're testifying to today;

A. That is what I'm testifying to, yes, sir.

23 legal authority, if any, did you rely to enter Plaintiff's

property?

25 A. I do see that. Q. And do you see where your answer is, quote,

Pursuant to the community caretaker exception to the

warrant requirement, in order to keep the peace during a

self-help repossession, end quote. Did I read that

5 correctly?

6

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A. You did.

7 O. And is that a true statement?

A. It is.

9 Q. So is it your testimony here today that the

10 reason you entered the backyard and did what you did with

respect to the motorcycle, the Harley-Davidson 2003 trike

that's at issue in this case, was pursuant to the

13 community caretaker exception to the warrant requirement?

14 A. To keep --

MS. ROBERTSON: Hold on. Objection, calls

16 for a legal conclusion and then also just

17 reassert the objection stated in the

18 interrogatory answer. You can answer if you

19

20 A. Can you ask me the question again, sir? I'm

21 sorry.

22 Q. (By Mr. Gelfand): Yeah. If -- I'm basically

23 just asking what you wrote down here, but --

24 A. No, no, no, please. No, go ahead.

25 Q. Sure. Is the answer to the question on what

47

A. May I answer that question with a question?

Q. (By Mr. Gelfand): Sure.

A. With respect, are you asking me what happens to

it once I'm done with it or what are you asking?

A. Oh.

8 Q. -- when you record -- if you responded to a call

9 today.

11 Q. And you enabled or it was automatically

12 enabled to your dash cam and body cam devices.

A. Mm-hm.

14 Q. And that was in connection with -- I don't know,

15 an assault you were investigating? 16

A. Okay. Just some -- some traffic stop.

17 Q. Correct. Fair enough. What I'm trying to

figure out is based -- if you know, based on your training 18

and experience, what happens to the recording that is 19

20 recorded? So does it get saved somewhere? Does it --

21 MS. ROBERTSON: Can I just make a running

22 objection because I want you to be able to

23 answer these questions for discovery purposes,

24 but I'd like a running objection that he's not

25 the custodian, calls for speculation, but go

48

1 footage. You can answer if you know.

Q. No, I'm just saying as a general matter --7

10 A. Okay.

13

14 interrogatories, but you can put that aside if you'd like? A. Okay. Do you want it back or --

Q. Okay. We may come back to these

15 16 Q. If you could -- now, you testified generally

17 about dash cam and body cam footage that was created on

October 22 of 2022 and, if it went past midnight, on

19 October 23 of 2022; correct?

A. Yes, sir.

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Based on your training and experience with the 21

Manchester Police Department, what happens to that footage 22

23 when you record it?

24 MS. ROBERTSON: Objection, calls for

25 speculation. He's not the custodian of the Case: 4:23-cv-00133-SRW Doc. #: 39-8 Filed: 01/11/24 Page: 14 of 52 PageID

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13 (Pages 49 to 52)

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1 ahead.

- 2 A. Okay. It might help you or it might help this 3 if I explain to you the entire process of the body
- cameras.
- 5 Q. (By Mr. Gelfand): Sure.
- 6 A. Before the beginning of my shift, which is at
- 7 5:45 a.m, the body cameras are stored in docking stations.
- 8 There's 32 body cameras and four docking stations, A, B, C
- 9 and D. Before my shift starts, I will go -- I'll find my
- 10 name. There's, like, a -- an iPad that sits next to them.
- 11 You find your name, you push on your name and then you
- 12 push the little arrow, enter arrow, and from there the
- 13 iPad magically gives you a number, a body cam number,
- 14 let's say in this case A1. Okay. That is my body camera
- 15 for the day. You wait for a second, it syncs. My name
- 16 will show up on the body camera. At that point, you take
- 17 it out, you put it on, you go about your business. Do
- 18 whatever you do throughout the day, traffic stops, calls
- 19 for service, whatever.
- 20 At the end of the day, you take that body camera
- back and you put it back in the docking station. Now, it
- doesn't matter which dock you put it into because they're all interconnected, and to be frankly honest with you, I
- mean, there's probably a lot o guys out there that don't
- 25 remember which one they picked it up from in the first
- 51
- A. You can copy it directly from the WatchGuard.
 You can -- there is a -- a tab where you can select it and
 download it.
- 4 Q. Do you only have access to your body cam videos 5 or do you have access to other officer's body cam videos
- 6 when you log into that program?
- A. Me personally, I believe that I only have access to mine. I know that supervisors and command staff
- 9 have -- have access to all of them and, of course, IT has 10 access to all of them.
- Q. Do you know how long they are stored on the 12 system?
- 13 MS. ROBERTSON: Objection, calls for
- speculation. Same running objection so.
- A. Different calls are classified differently, and
 they are stored for different timeframes. And for that, I
 do not know.
- Q. (By Mr. Gelfand): Do you know whether there are
- 19 any policies at the Manchester Police Department that were
- 20 in effect between October of 2022 and today that address
- 21 that issue? In other words, how long body cam or dash cam
- 22 video should be maintained?
- A. I do not know.
- Q. Have you ever received training in any of those
- 25 policies, if they exist?

- 1 place. So you put it back in the docking station, and
- 2 then from there, the video's downloaded into a server.
- 3 And that is as much as I know about it.
 - Q. Have there ever been instances where you in a
- 5 case you were investigating needed to obtain copies of the
- 6 body camera or dash cam footage?
- 7 A. Yes, sir.
 - Q. Let's stick on body cam for a second.
- 9 A. Okay.

8

- 10 Q. That's what you're testifying about.
- 11 A. Mm-hm.
- 12 Q. How do you do that?
- 13 A. There is a program that we can go, it's the
- 14 WatchGuard program, where you can log in. Once the body
- 15 cam video is downloaded, which is a tossup sometimes
- 16 between whether it takes five minutes to download or
- 17 whether it takes five hours to download. However, once
- 18 that is all done, you can go back in through the
- 19 WatchGuard program and view the video.
- Q. And have there been instances where you needed
- 21 to make a copy of the video, for example, for a prosecutor
- 22 for discovery?
- 23 A. Me personally, no.
- Q. Do you know how you could accomplish that task
- 25 if you wanted to?
- 1 A. The -- as far as --
 - 2 Q. Data retention policies?
 - 3 A. I don't remember.
 - 4 Q. Have you ever, in connection with any of your
 - 5 cases, reviewed body cam or dash cam footage from more
 - 6 than three weeks earlier than the date you were reviewing
 - 7 it?

- 8 A. No
- 9 Q. What is, if you know -- you testified about how
- 10 this mechanically works --
 - A. Correct.
- 12 Q. -- with respect to the body cams.
- 13 **A. Mm-hm.**
- Q. How does it work with respect to dash cams?
- 15 A. So the dash cameras are kind of a different
- animal. They work over Wi-Fi. Basically, when you pull
- 17 up to the station, you get in that Wi-Fi zone where the
- 18 material from the dash cam is transferred over to the
- inaccial from the dash cam is transferred over to the
- 19 server, and that happens automatically.
- Q. In other words, to speak in simple language,
- 21 when you drive your police vehicle back to the station, it
- 22 automatically downloads?
- A. Yes, when -- well, that is in a perfect world,
- 24 but yes, sir.
- Q. Meaning, if the Wi-Fi is working?

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14 (Pages 53 to 56)

A. That's correct. 2 Q. Does the Wi-Fi generally work?

3 A. Yes. The Wi-Fi generally works, yes, sir.

Q. Okay. How do you, as an officer, review dash

5 cam footage if you want to?

A. We have the ability to watch our in-car dash cam 6 7 footage directly from the little tiny too small monitor

that is in the vehicle. 8

9 Q. After the fact, if you want to get dash cam footage, for example, for a prosecutor for discovery, how 10

do you get it? 11

4

12 A. I've never done that, so I don't know.

13 Q. Is there a program that you're aware of or

somewhere on the servers at the police station that you 14

can log into to see dash cam videos?

16 A. WatchGuard.

17 Q. So it has dash cam and body cam?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. Do you know, similar to what I asked you before,

20 whether there's any policies and procedures speaking to

21 how long dash cam footage should be maintained by the

22 police department?

23 A. There is policies, but if you're asking me if I

know them, I don't. I don't know the wording. I don't

know how long each individual recording is saved.

Q. Is it your understanding that there is some time

period after which body cam footage and dash cam footage

54

is automatically deleted by the system?

A. Officially, I do not know that. I can -- I

5 don't want to speculate because I can only tell you what

I've heard, but what I know is no.

O. What have you heard?

A. A year or six months or 30 days depending, but

once again, I can't verify that because I haven't seen it 9

and I don't know that for myself. 10

Q. Who have you heard that from?

12 A. Just other officers, in general. 13

Q. After this incident that is the subject of this

litigation involving Mr. Thompson's Harley-Davidson, did 14

you ever review any of your body cam footage that you

16 recorded that evening?

A. I did not.

18 Q. Did you ever review any of your dash cam footage

that you recorded that evening? 19

A. I had no reason to. I did not.

21 Q. Did anyone ever ask you to preserve your body

22 cam footage from that evening?

23 A. No. sir.

Q. Did anyone ever ask you to preserve your dash

cam footage from that evening?

55 56

1 A. No, sir.

Q. I am going to show you what I have marked as

Exhibit 7. Have you ever seen -- and take a minute to

look at it, have you ever seen Exhibit 7?

A. No, sir, I have not.

Q. If you can look at the second page, please.

A. Sure. No, sir, I have not seen this.

Q. Is it your testimony that to this day you've

never actually seen Exhibit 7?

10 A. Yes, sir.

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11 Q. So as I hand it to you during this deposition,

it's the first time you've ever seen this document? 13

A. Yes, sir, it is.

14 Q. Including the attachment, i.e, the formal letter

15 dated November 14th, 2022?

16 A. Yes. sir.

17 Q. If you look at Exhibit 7 right now, do you see that it is an e-mail, subject line preservation letter 18

dated November 14 of 2022? 19

20 MS. ROBERTSON: Just a running objection, 21 object to foundation. You can answer if you

22 know.

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25

A. I -- I see that, what you're saying, sir. 23

(Plaintiff's Deposition Exhibit No. 7 was

identified for the record.)

Q. (By Mr. Gelfand): I'm just asking if you see it

on the document?

A. Yes.

4 O. Yes?

A. Right there.

Q. And do you see that this e-mail at least on the 6

7 face of the document was sent to Mr. Rost and Ms. Seele?

MS. ROBERTSON: Same objection. 8

A. I don't know who that is.

10 Q. (By Mr. Gelfand): Have you ever interacted with

the city attorneys at Manchester? 11

12 A. Before this point or before this case, no.

13 Q. Okay. There is an e-mail address here

14 police@manchestermo.gov. Do you recognize that e-mail

15 address?

A. I do not.

17 Q. Did you drive a police vehicle to this

deposition today? 18

19 A. To this -- to this deposition, yes, sir, I did.

Q. On the back of your police vehicle does it say

21 ManchesterMo.gov?

A. It's embarrassing, but I don't know. I would 22

23 have to go look.

24 Q. Okay. Do you recognize what the domain name

ManchesterMo.gov is?

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15 (Pages 57 to 60)

57 58 A. I would have to look at it. 1 A. Yes. 2 Q. Okay. What is it? 2 Q. I'm not trying to trick you. 3 A. That is the e-mail domain. 3 A. No, I get it. 4 Q. Do you have any knowledge of who, if anyone, 4 Q. Does that help you? 5 accesses e-mails sent to the account 5 A. Thank you. police@manchestermo.gov? 6 Q. Do you know what 456 is? A. Now I do. 7 A. I do not, sir. 7 8 Q. Now, in your interrogatories, Exhibit 12, you 8 O. What is it? reference, and I'll direct your attention to it, two 9 A. Property lockouts and vehicle towing. general order numbers on page 6 in response to 10 10 Q. Okay. 11 Interrogatory No. 11. 11 A. That hurt, just a little bit. 12 A. We're on -- which one are we on, sir, Number 11 12 Q. Let's -- let's start simple with 456. I'm going 13 or Number -to show you what I've marked as Exhibit 3. 13 14 Q. Eleven. 14 (Plaintiff's Deposition Exhibit No. 3 was 15 A. Okav. 15 identified for the record.) 16 Q. Do you see where your answer says, See general 16 Q. (By Mr. Gelfand): Was anything you were doing a 17 order numbers 441 and 456? property lockout? 17 18 18 A. I do. A. No. sir. 19 19 Q. What is general order number 441? Q. Or a vehicle lockout? 20 A. General order 441 deals with maintaining the 20 A. No. sir. 21 peace during self-help repossessions and towing vehicles, 21 Q. What is a vehicle lockout? personal property disputes. 22 A. A vehicle lockout happens quite a bit actually. 23 Q. And what is 456? 23 It's where somebody has either locked their keys in a 24 A. 456, I don't know. 24 vehicle, doesn't have access to it and they need us to 25 Q. Okay. respond and open the vehicle. 59 60 Q. That had nothing to do with what you're doing those forms for that matter, in connection with this 1 here; right? 3 3 A. In connection with this matter, no, sir. A. No. sir. 4 Q. Was this vehicle, meaning the Harley-Davidson Q. Meaning that is accurate? 4 2003 towed? 5 A. That is accurate, sir. Q. Fair to say that -- and let me be clear, I'm not 6 A. No, sir. critical of you putting it in your interrogatories 7 Q. If we look at page 2 of Exhibit 3, order number response, but is it fair to say that order number 456 has 8 456, do you see where it says policy? really nothing to do with this case, because there was not 9 A. Yes, sir. 10 a towed vehicle or a property lockout? 10 Q. It says, An officer may remove or cause to be 11 A. No, that would be incorrect. 11 removed any vehicle from a street, highway, public or 12 Q. Okay. How does 456 factor into this case? private property to the nearest garage or other place of 13 A. If you look at 456-07, repossessed vehicles, it safety or to a garage designated or maintained by the City 14 would explain that -- well --14 of Manchester under any of the below described 15 Q. Let's talk about that. Do you see 456.07 circumstances, after it is determined that there is no 15 16 indicating that an officer is to generate a towed vehicle 16 other way to safely remove the vehicle. Did I read that 17 report on the ITIRMS, whatever that is? 17 correctly? A. That's our reporting system, sir. 18 18 A. Yes, sir. Very good. 19 Q. Okay. Do you see that? 19 Q. Is that what you did here? 20 A. I do see that. 20 A. No, the vehicle was not towed. 21 Q. Did you do that here? 21 Q. If we look at page 4, do you see the police 22 A. I did not. Okav. So --22 department tow procedures? 23 Q. Is the reason you didn't do that was because 23 A. Yes, sir. 24 this was not a vehicle repossession? Q. Can we agree that you did not complete an MPD 25 A. That's right, sir. That's what I get for

25 Form 003, a DOR Form 4569 and an MPD Form 038 or any of

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16 (Pages 61 to 64)

61 62 thinking; it hurts sometimes. MR. GELFAND: Like now, when there's no 2 Q. Fair to say that 456 has nothing to do with any 2 real meaningful question pending. 3 of this? 3 (Off the record.) 4 A. Yes, sir, that would be fair. 4 Q. (By Mr. Gelfand): Officer, you understand that 5 Q. Okay. Now, let's look at 441. 5 after the recess you're still testifying under oath? 6 A. Do you want this back? A. Yes, sir. 7 You can just keep it and make a pile. Q. 7 Q. Okay. Do you still have Exhibit 2, I believe, 8 A. Okay. I'm sorry. 8 in front of you? Q. Because the court reporter is ultimately going A. Yes, sir. Exhibit 2. 9 10 to keep possession of it. Keep possession. No pressure. 10 Q. Yes. Okay. And is that general order number Do you have Exhibit 441 in front of you? 11 11 No. 441? 12 A. I do not. 12 A. It is, sir. 13 Q. I'm going to show you Exhibit 2. 13 (Plaintiff's Deposition Exhibit No. 2 was 14 A. After this, can we take a break for a second? 14 identified for the record.) 15 O. We can take a break right now. 15 Q. (By Mr. Gelfand): It says, The purpose of this 16 A. Just for thirty seconds. general order is to establish procedures to follow when 16 17 MR. GELFAND: Let's take a -- we've been property interests are in dispute or this department is 18 going. notified of vehicle repossessions. Correct? 19 MS. ROBERTSON: Yeah, let's --19 A. That is correct, sir. 20 MR. GELFAND: The one -- one thing I 20 Q. And it says, The policy -- the officer should 2.1 haven't told you which I always forget to tell 21 not attempt to take personal property away from one party 22 you and don't intend to is, we're not in any 22 and give it to another. Correct? 23 race. If you want to take a break at any 23 A. It does say that, sir. 24 point --24 Q. When we look at procedure, do you see 441.02? 25 THE WITNESS: Okay. 25 A. Yes, sir. 63 64 Q. Tell me if I'm reading this correctly. When the report. An officer arrives at the scene. They meet 1 property is in dispute, the officer should advise and with the repossession agent, and they obtain a full permit the courts to determine their respective rights to description of the vehicle being repossessed and the name the property. The officer should advise the party in of the company performing that. You run the vehicle VIN possession of the property not to dispose of it until the and license plate at the DOR registration and obtain a courts have resolved the matter. Did I read that printout of the results. Have the repossession entered 7 correctly? into the appropriate computer databases, REJIS, MULES, 8 A. You did read that correctly. NCIC and obtain a printout of the computer entry. 9 Q. And then finally, it says, If one party has a 9 This section is -- deals with official vehicle court order which appears to give that party the right to 10 repossessions, basically a repossession company. Let's possession of the property, that order should be enforced 11 sav -only by the official specifically directed to do so in the 12 Q. And I don't think we're disagreeing with each order. Officers are advised to beware of court orders of 13 other. This -- what happened here on October 22 of 2022 a suspicious nature. Did I read that correctly? 14 at Mr. Thompson's house was not an official vehicle 15 A. You did read the correctly, sir. repossession with a repossession company; correct? 15 Q. In a nutshell, this is basically saying courts 16 16 A. Yes, sir, that is correct. get to make the decision in property disputes not police 17 Q. Okay. And is it fair to say that this order, officers; correct? 18 number 441, addresses that circumstance, the official 19 MS. ROBERTSON: Object to form, calls for a vehicle repossession by a repossession company that was 20 legal conclusion, calls for speculation. 20

the name of the company performing the vehicle

A. It is applicable here because there in section

C, numbers 1, 2 and 3 were things that I did before the

Q. Well, let's talk about that. Did you identify

not applicable here?

vehicle was taken.

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Q. (By Mr. Gelfand): Did I not just read that?

disagree. With -- with the respect that this general

order deals with official vehicle repossessions where if

you look at section C, an officer gets dispatched to take

A. You did just read that, sir, but I would

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(Pages 65 to 68) 65 66 the vehicle VIN and license plate for the DOR 1 repossession? 2 A. No, sir. So if you read section 1, I was registration. I did not do the -- do -- print out the 3 dispatched to take a report. results, but I did run the VIN. 4 Q. No, I understand, but I just went --Q. Okay. 5 A. Okay. 5 A. So --Q. -- to number 2 because --6 6 Q. And you didn't do the ITI system; correct? 7 A. Okav. A. No. sir. I did not. Q. -- I knew you were dispatched. 8 Q. Okay. So, notwithstanding the clarification, I A. The repossession agent, I guess in this case was 9 9 think I understand what you're saying. Ms. Elmore. 10 10 A. Okay. Okay. 11 Q. Well, let's talk about that. 11 Q. The bottom line is, you're not claiming that Ms. 12 A. Okay. 12 Elmore was the repo company; right? 13 Q. Based on what? A. No, sir, I am not. 13 14 A. No, she was -- she was the reporting party 14 Q. Like the show Repo Man or whatever it's called? 15 that -- that said that --15 A. I've seen that, that's actually pretty cool. 16 Q. So come on, you weren't actually considering her 16 Q. It is pretty cool, but it has nothing to do with 17 to be a repossession --17 what happened that night; correct? A. No, sir. 18 A. That is correct. 18 19 19 Q. -- agent --Q. Okay. Now, if we jump -- if we go back to that A. I was not. 20 20 night for a second, when you arrived at Mr. Thompson's 21 Q. Okay. 21 house, Mr. Thompson was in possession of the 2.2 A. But this -- if -- if we say that this 441 in 22 Harley-Davidson insofar as it was parked in his gated general had nothing to do with what happened that night, 23 backyard; correct? there are a couple of things that I did do that were --24 MS. ROBERTSON: Objection, calls for that are on this. One, you know, it's number three, I ran 25 speculation, calls for a legal conclusion. You 67 68 can answer if you know. 1 (Plaintiff's Deposition Exhibit No. 4 was 1 2 A. I don't understand the question, sir. identified for the record.) Q. (By Mr. Gelfand): When you arrived at the Q. (By Mr. Gelfand): And just be clear so that house, the Harley-Davidson was parked in Mr. Thompson's we're clear for the record, this references the Thompson gated backyard; correct? residence, the address you responded to and the date and A. Correct. time of dispatch, at least approximately; correct? 6 7 Q. Fenced backyard. And so in that capacity, he 7 A. Correct. was in possession of it, no different than if my car is in 8 Q. Okay. Officer Cockrell was there with you; my garage and I am in possession of it, even if I'm not 9 correct? A. He was. 10 home; correct? 10 A. Correct. Q. Were there any other officers in this initial 11 11 12 Q. Okay. Now, when you left Mr. Thompson's house 12 call that were physically present with you? 13 in this first call, so to speak, Mr. Mackenzie and Ms. 13 A. In the initial call, no. Elmore were in possession of Mr. Thompson's 14 Q. Why is Officer Cockrell's name not mentioned as Harley-Davidson motorcycle; correct? 15 an officer in this police report anywhere? 16 A. That is correct. 16 A. That's a good question, sir. I don't know. 17 Q. I am going to show you Exhibit 4. Can you tell 17 Q. If we look at -- you see these numbers on the me if you recognize Exhibit 4? bottom, we call them Bates numbers. 18 18 A. I do. 19 19 A. I have no idea what that is. Q. What is Exhibit 4? 20 20 Q. No, I'm saying these are numbers -- we can go 21 A. It's the police report. 21 off the record for a second. 22 Q. And is this a police report that you personally 22 (Off the record.) 23 prepared in connection with the incident that is the 23 Q. (By Mr. Gelfand): Do you see MPD 0002?

24

25

A. I do.

Q. I'm sorry, if you'll go to the next page 0003,

subject of this lawsuit?

A. The initial, yes.

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18 (Pages 69 to 72)

70 69 Q. Are you aware that this particular Harley you describe a 2003 Harley-Davidson trike with a VIN number of 1HD1GDV353K323459; correct? doesn't actually have a key? 2 3 MS. ROBERTSON: Objection, calls for 3 A. Yes, sir. 4 Q. Black in color; correct? 4 speculation. You can answer if you know. 5 5 A. Yes, sir. A. No. Q. And you would agree with me that that is the 6 Q. (By Mr. Gelfand): I'm going to show you 7 Harley-Davidson that is at issue in this lawsuit? Exhibit 15. Did you, when you were on-scene at A. I would agree with you, sir. Mr. Thompson's house with the Harley, ever see what's 8 Q. Okay. Do you know anything about Harleys? depicted in Exhibit 15, which is that it starts with a 9 9 A. I do not. 10 toggle switch instead of a key? 10 11 Q. Are you a motorcycle enthusiast? 11 (Plaintiff's Deposition Exhibit No. 15 12 A. I have -- I would love to be, but unfortunately, 12 was identified for the record.) my better half won't allow me. 13 MS. ROBERTSON: Objection, calls for 13 Q. Have you ever ridden a Harley? 14 speculation. Object to foundation. Object to 14 15 A. I wish. Once again, no, I have not, sir. 15 16 Q. Do you know anything about the nature of this 16 A. No, sir. I do not recognize that. I never saw particular Harley, for example, whether it was a 17 it. 17 collector's edition, whether it was rare, whether it's 18 Q. (By Mr. Gelfand): As a police officer, would 19 custom in any way? 19 you agree with me that if someone claims this is my key to 20 A. I do not. my car, one way of determining whether that is true is to 21 Q. You said in your police report on page MPD 0003, 21 see if the key actually fits into the key slot? 22 Mackenzie then started the vehicle with the key and was 22 A. That would be one way, yes, sir. able to get it out through the open gate and around the 23 Q. Did you do anything at all to confirm whether Jeep. Did I read that correctly? 24 the key that Mr. Mackenzie showed you had anything to do 25 A. Yes. 25 with the Harley? 71 72 A. No, sir. 1 motorcycle at any time? 1 Q. The next sentence says, Elmore and Mackenzie A. I can't say because I don't -- once again, I -were then allowed to leave. Did I read that correctly? I was concentrating on what I was doing, not what he was A. You did read that correctly. doing, so I can't tell you that. Q. What did you mean when you say, Elmore and 5 5 Q. During the pendency of the entire call, were you Mackenzie were then allowed to leave? 6 and Officer Cockrell both working in your capacity as law 7 A. That meaning once the vehicle was started they enforcement officers at all times? 8 left. A. Yes, sir. 8 9 Q. And to be clear, they left with the 9 Q. Were you wearing police uniforms at all times? understanding that you and Officer Cockrell were okay with 10 A. Yes, sir. them leaving with the bike? 11 Q. Were you wearing badges at all times? 12 A. Yes, sir. 12 A. No, I was not wearing the badge. 13 Q. After they left, what, if anything, did you do 13 Q. Did you have a badge? 14 at the property in this first response? 14 A. I did have a badge, yes, sir. 15 A. After they left? Q. To the best of your knowledge, did Officer 15 16 Q. Yes. Cockrell have a badge? 16

- 17 A. I returned to my vehicle, and I went back in 18
- Q. Was there a time later that evening -- let's 19 back up for a second. 20
- 21 Before we -- before you left and before they
- left with the vehicle, did you physically touch the 2.2
- 23 motorcycle at anytime?
- 24 A. No. sir.
- 25 Q. Did Officer Cockrell physically touch the

- A. Yes, sir.
- 17
- 18 Q. Did you both have police issued firearms?
- 19 A. We did, sir.
- Q. And did you both respond to the call in police 20
- 21 vehicles?
- 22 A. Yes, we did, sir.
- 23 Q. Can we agree that when you and Officer Cockrell
- allowed Ms. Elmore and Mr. Mackenzie to leave with
- Mr. Thompson's motorcycle, the Harley-Davidson at issue in

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(Pages 73 to 76)

74

76

1 this case, no court had ever said that they had the right

to that bike? 3 MS. ROBERTSON: Objection, calls for

speculation. Object to form.

A. Your statement that -- that we allowed them to leave with Mr. Thompson's motorcycle, at the time I had no

reason to believe it was Mr. Thompson's motorcycle.

Q. (By Mr. Gelfand): No reason?

9 A. Beyond the legal running the VIN number, the

title that they showed me at that time at that moment I 10

had no reason to believe that it was Mr. Thompson's

motorcycle.

4

5

6

Q. Was the fact that it was parked in

14 Mr. Thompson's private backyard a reason to believe that

it was his motorcycle?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Did you have any reason to believe that there

was a court determination that it was anybody's motorcycle

other than Mr. Thompson's? 19

20 A. That's --

21 MS. ROBERTSON: Object to the form, calls

22 for speculation. You can answer.

2.3 A. Sorry. Aside from the title that they showed me

and running the VIN over the -- over the air, no. There

was no other court documents.

Q. (By Mr. Gelfand): I'm asking you a simple 2 question.

3 A. Sure.

O. There are some instances where courts have

5 decided a property dispute. You're familiar with that;

8

17

19

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7 MS. ROBERTSON: Objection, calls for

speculation.

9 A. I can't be specific about that. I -- I have

10 heard that, yes. 11

Q. Do you understand, based on your training and 12 experience --

13 A. Yes. 14

Q. -- that sometimes people may fight over whose

15 property it is --

16 A. And they go to court, yes, sir.

Q. And they go to court; correct?

18 A. Correct.

Q. And then the court issues an order; correct?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. And in those instances, sometimes officers may

22 truly just keep the peace to make sure that the court

23 determined rightful owner gets possession of the property;

24 correct?

25 MS. ROBERTSON: Object to form. Object

75

to -- speculation. It assumes facts not in 1

evidence, mischaracterizes the evidence. You

can answer if you know it.

4 A. I don't know.

Q. (By Mr. Gelfand): Sitting here today, are you

aware that what Ms. Elmore and Mr. Mackenzie told you 6 7 wasn't true?

MS. ROBERTSON: Objection, calls for 8

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speculation, calls for a legal conclusion. You

10 can answer if you know.

11 A. Sitting here today, am I aware that what they

told me was not true? 12

13 O. Yes.

14 A. Yes, sir, I am aware.

15 Q. When you let them leave with the motorcycle that

night, Mr. Mackenzie and Ms. Elmore to be specific, at

17 that time had you ever spoken with Mr. Thompson?

MS. ROBERTSON: Object to form.

19 A. No. sir.

20 Q. (By Mr. Gelfand): At that time, had you ever

given Mr. Thompson the ability to provide his perspective

on who owned the motorcycle?

MS. ROBERTSON: Object to form, assumes 23

24 facts not in evidence.

A. No.

1 Q. (By Mr. Gelfand): How much time passed from the

moment you knocked on Mr. Thompson's door to the moment

Mr. Mackenzie and Ms. Elmore left with the motorcycle?

A. No clue. I have no idea.

O. Less than half an hour?

A. Considering the entirety of the call lasted 25

to 30 minutes, I think it's safe to say that it was less

than half an hour.

Q. Less than 20 minutes?

10 A. I don't know, sir. I'm not going to guess.

11 Q. Did you do anything at all during that time

12 period to investigate with the Department of Revenue the

13 history of the title with respect to the motorcycle?

A. I had no reason to at that time, sir.

15 Q. In other words, no?

A. In other words, no, that's correct. I'm sorry.

17 I'm not trying to be vague.

18 Q. Did you believe that at that time you could just

make an on-site assessment that Mr. Mackenzie and Ms.

Elmore were the owners of the motorcycle without needing 20

21 to go to a court?

22 A. Can you define on-site assessment? 23

Q. You made a decision at the time on the site --

24 on the scene?

25 A. Correct. Case: 4:23-cv-00133-SRW Doc. #: 39-8 Filed: 01/11/24 Page: 21 of 52 PageID #: 729

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20 (Pages 77 to 80)

	77	78	
1	Q. Now, I'm going to briefly show you Exhibit 5.	1 says, Distribution all department personnel. That would	
2	A. Do you want this back?	2 include people like you, Officer Cockrell, et cetera;	
3	Q. No.	3 correct?	
4	A. Do you want me to just put it over here?	4 A. That would, yes, sir.	
5	Q. Sure. Thank you. Exhibit 5 I will represent to	5 Q. Each of these order numbers that we have looked	
6	you was not in your interrogatories. Do you recognize	6 at were in effect on the date that you want to	
7	Exhibit 5?	7 Mr. Thompson's house; correct?	
8	A. It's general order 425.	8 A. In in effect, meaning they were valid	
9	(Plaintiff's Deposition Exhibit No. 5 was	9 operational directives?	
10	identified for the record.)	10 Q. Yes.	
11	Q. (By Mr. Gelfand): Have you seen this before?	11 A. Yes, okay. Yes, sir.	
12	A. I have seen it before, but I would have to read	Q. In other words, they had been they pre-date	
13	it to be able to testify to it.	13 the call?	
14	Q. Does general order first of all, let's back	14 A. Okay. I'm thinking too much. Yes, sir, you're	
15	up for a second.	15 correct.	
16	A. Okay.	16 Q. No, that's fine. That's a fair clarification.	
17	Q. Based on your training and experience, what is a	17 Order number 425 refers to search warrants and warrantless	,
18	general order?	18 searches; correct?	
19	A. A general order is a mandate set forth by the	19 A. It does.	
20	City of Manchester that officers must follow in all	Q. And we can agree because you've testified to it	
21	different number of cases.	21 that this call did not involve the execution of a search	
22	Q. And are these distributed to officers on or	22 warrant; correct?	
23	about the date that they're implemented?	23 A. Yes, sir.	
24	A. They are.	Q. And similarly, I think you'll agree, if we look	
25	Q. So by way of example, the back of Exhibit No. 5	25 at page 5, Bates number MPD 000131. Do you see that?	
	79	80	
4	79	80	
1	A. Yes, sir.	1 MR. GELFAND: I agree, but then he just	
2	A. Yes, sir.Q. There's a list of warrantless searches that are	1 MR. GELFAND: I agree, but then he just told me that he disagreed with my premise.	
2	A. Yes, sir.Q. There's a list of warrantless searches that are most often encountered and authorized for various things	1 MR. GELFAND: I agree, but then he just 2 told me that he disagreed with my premise. 3 A. But a warrantless search is not only has to	
2 3 4	A. Yes, sir. Q. There's a list of warrantless searches that are most often encountered and authorized for various things that law enforcement might confront in certain criminal	1 MR. GELFAND: I agree, but then he just 2 told me that he disagreed with my premise. 3 A. But a warrantless search is not only has to 4 do with a criminal investigation. It can be it can be	
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(Pages 81 to 84) 81 82 1 characterization and speculation and legal A. Sorry about that. I'm sorry. 2 conclusion. 2 Q. Why? 3 MR. GELFAND: That's fine. A. Why -- repeat the question, please. 3 4 Q. (By Mr. Gelfand): So just to backup, so we have Q. Why did you believe you could stand in 5 a clean record. Did the warrantless search involve a Mr. Thompson's gated backyard without a warrant? valid arrest? 6 A. Because I was conducting keeping the peace. I 7 A. No. was there to check the VIN on the vehicle to verify the 8 Q. Did it involve a plain view search? 8 information. That was it. A. Yes. 9 Q. Well, let's back up. We'll get to that in a 10 Q. What is your understanding of a plain view 10 second. 11 search? 11 A. Okay. 12 A. The motorcycle was in plain view. 12 Q. I think we can knock out the rest of these 13 Q. Where was it parked? pretty quickly. 13 14 A. In the rear of the residence. 14 A. Okay. 15 O. Was it in plain view at a place that you 15 Q. Did your warrantless search involve an 16 believed you were legally entitled to stand? 16 automobile search? 17 A. Yes, sir. 17 A. No. sir. 18 Q. Did you believe you were legally entitled to 18 Q. Did your warrantless search involve a search 19 stand in Mr. Thompson's gated backyard? 19 under emergency conditions where public safety was 20 A. Yes. 20 endangered? 2.1 MS. ROBERTSON: Objection. 21 A. No. 22 Q. (By Mr. Gelfand): Why? 22 Q. Did your warrantless search involve a search 23 MS. ROBERTSON: Objection, calls for a 23 made after a valid consent had been obtained from 24 legal conclusion. Mr. Thompson? 24 25 Q. (By Mr. Gelfand): Why? 25 A. No. 83 84 1 Q. (By Mr. Gelfand): You can answer. Q. Did your warrantless search involve a frisk of 1 2 any individual based on a reasonable suspicion that the A. I have to have a reason. I can't just be subject was armed and reasonable articulable reasons to driving down the road, not contacting anybody, not seeing fear safety? anything out of the ordinary, not talking to anybody, not 5 A. No. getting any kind of story from anybody. 6 Q. Did the warrantless search involve an inventory 6 Now, I would say that depending on the time of search of a seized vehicle and property? 7 the day, let's say that your scenario was 1:00 in the 8 A. No. morning, 2:00 in the morning, 3:00 in the morning and that 9 Q. Is it your understanding that you can enter a was an area that was a high crime area known for vehicle 10 gated yard of someone's residence? break-ins, known for burglaries or other crimes, and I see 11 MS. ROBERTSON: Objection, calls for an open gate or an open front door to something to that 12 speculation. effect, then yes, I would stop and yes, I would make sure 13 A. I don't know. everything is okay before I closed the door and went on. 14 Q. (By Mr. Gelfand): Come on. If you're driving 14 Q. Prior to the bike leaving Mr. Thompson's private 15 down the street -property, what, if anything, did you do to investigate the 15 16 A. Mm-hm. 16 veracity, the truth of Ms. Elmore's and Mr. Mackenzie's 17 Q. -- and no other facts. 17 story? 18 A. Okay. 18 A. That's another big word, veracity. 19 Q. And there's a gated backyard with a privacy 19 20 fence like this one --20 A. I had no reason to believe that they were lying 21 A. Mm-hm. 21 to me. I had no red flags. They told me their story. 22 Q. -- but the gate happens to be open if that's the 22 They showed me a picture of the title. The vehicle was in

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the backyard. I saw it based on the picture that they

Q. So that wasn't exactly responsive to what I was

showed me. That is why I entered the backyard.

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speculation.

case. Can you just enter in it and search it as a cop?

MS. ROBERTSON: Object to form, calls for

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(Pages 85 to 88)

85 86 1 asking. seeing the documents that they showed me, after running 2 the VIN on the motorcycle which came back to Nathan Rench, A. Okay. I'm sorry. that is what I did. That's the steps that I took. Q. What, if anything -- I think your answer is 3 nothing, but tell me if I'm wrong. What, if anything, did And then I also at that point, before they left 4 you do to investigate the veracity of Ms. Elmore's and with the motorcycle, I contacted my supervisor. I ran it 5 Mr. Mackenzie's story? by him as to what he thought and then I made the decision 7 MS. ROBERTSON: Objection, asked and based on that. 8 8 Q. Who is your supervisor? answered, mischaracterizes his testimony. He 9 A. Sergeant Evan Waters. 9 answered your question. You can answer it again 10 Q. How did you contact your supervisor? 10 if you want. 11 11 A. No, I'll stick with what I said. A. By telephone. 12 Q. (By Mr. Gelfand): Well, I'm going to ask it a 12 Q. What did you tell Mr. Waters? 13 A. I explained to Sergeant Waters the -- what I 13 different way --14 had, who I was out with. I explained to him briefly what 14 A. Okay. 15 they had said. I explained to them what I did as far as Q. -- because you -- you told me that you had no 16 running the VIN on the motorcycle. It came back to him. reason to doubt their story, but that's a different --I also explained to him that Mr. Mackenzie had a key, that's not responsive to what you did to investigate it. which he claimed was to the motorcycle. At that point, You understand the difference? 19 Sergeant Waters said yes, I could release the bike. 19 A. So the word I'm getting hung up on is 20 "veracity." 20 Q. Was there anything else that you said to 21 Q. Okay. Let me -- that's fair. Let me replace it 21 Sergeant Waters? 22 with "truth." What, if anything, did you do to 22 A. I would have to reference my report for that. investigate prior to them leaving, whether Ms. Elmore and 23 Q. Was your discussion with Sergeant Waters 24 recorded police channels? Mr. Mackenzie were telling the truth to you? 25 A. It would have been on my body camera, yes, sir. 25 A. After hearing their story, once again, after 87 88 Q. Was it also on your -- I hate to use this I was the one that let Mackenzie and Elmore take the bike, 1 phrase, but walkie-talkie or your radio? not Sergeant Waters. 3 A. Oh, my mic, no. 3 Q. Okay. Prior to you letting Mr. Mackenzie and 4 O. Why not? Ms. Elmore take the bike, had you reviewed any financial 5 A. Because I called him on the telephone. documents reflecting ownership of the bike? Checks? 6 Q. Your mic, your police issued radio, is recorded 6 A. Thank you. No, sir. 7 by dispatch; correct? Q. Had you spoken to Mr. Thompson? 8 A. I'm sorry? A. No, sir. 9 Q. It's recorded by dispatch; correct? 9 Q. Had you obtained any documents from any third 10 10 parties, any companies, any things like that? 11 Q. And you were aware at that time that it was 11 A. No, sir. Are we done with this? 12 recorded by dispatch; correct? 12 Q. Yes. Did you look on CaseNet? 13 A. Yes, sir. 13 14 Q. Were you also aware at that time that your 14 Q. Did you contact the Department of Revenue? personal cell phone would not be recorded by dispatch? 15 A. As far as running through -- the VIN through 15 16 A. That's not the way that I thought of it, but you 16 REJIS, that is the extent, so I would say no. 17 17 are correct. Q. Okay. Later that -- so, first of all, did you 18 Q. What, if anything, specifically did Sergeant 18 testify as best as you can recall to everything that

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happened that first time that you were at the house?

Q. Later that night, technically the following

Q. Approximately how much time had passed between

morning, did you return to Mr. Thompson's house?

the time you left and the time you returned?

A. Yes, sir, I did.

A. I did.

Waters tell you?

A. The gist of that conversation was me basically

However, let's -- let's take it for what it is,

to him, he said that the bike could be released.

telling him everything that happened and once explained it

Sergeant Waters was not on the scene. I was on the scene.

Okay. I was the one that made the final decision. Okay.

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(Pages 89 to 92)

90 89

- 1 A. Three hours and two minutes.
- 2 Q. So do you know the exact time you returned?
- 3 A. 0218.
- 4 Q. 2:18 a.m.? Why did to return to the house at
- 5 2:18 in the morning?
- A. Mr. Thompson had called and wanted to report his 7 bike stolen.
- 8 Q. And when you say he called, did he call -- as
- far as you understood it, 911 dispatch? 9
- A. I do not know if he called 911, but he did 10
- contact dispatch. That's how. He didn't call me or call 11
- the Manchester Police Department, I do not believe.
- 13 Q. He called for police assistance in some form?
- 14 A. Correct, yes, sir.
 - Q. Did you personally respond to his residence?
- A. I did. 16

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- 17 Q. And this was the same shift; correct?
- 18 A. It was.
- 19 Q. So everything I asked you about you responding
- in your police car with your police uniform, badge, gun,
- 21 et cetera, that all applies here, too; correct?
- 22 A. It does.
- 23 Q. Okay. Who else responded to the house?
- 24 A. Sergeant Waters and Officer Cockrell.
- 25 Q. Prior to responding to the house, did you and

- Officer Cockrell speak about this?
- A. Can you be more specific in that, sir?
- Q. Sure. You and Officer Cockrell a couple hours
- earlier had this shared experience with Ms. Elmore and
- Mr. Mackenzie; correct?
 - A. Yes, sir.
- Q. You're then getting notice, at least preliminary
- notice, that Mr. Thompson is saying they stole my
- motorcycle or my motorcycle's gone. Did you guys have any
- conversation with each other? 10
 - A. No, sir, we did not. We do not ride together.
- Our sectors are hell and gone from each other, so between
- the time that we left the scene and then the time that we
- 14 arrived on the scene, no.
- 15 Q. Did you speak with Sergeant Waters in the
- 16 interim?

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- 17 A. In the interim, in between?
- 18 Q. Yes.
- 19 A. No.
- 20 O. Okay. When -- who showed up first at the house?
- 21 You?
- 22 A. I did. Yes, sir. I'm sorry.
- 23 Q. That's okay. When you showed up at the house,
- 24 what happened?
- 25 A. Mr. Thompson was on his front steps and he

91

- 1 wanted to report that his bike was stolen. He had all of
- the documents. He had a title, bill of sale. He had
- copies of checks and everything else for the motorcycle.
- Q. Did he give them to you?
- A. He did. He did not -- correctly, he showed them 5
- to me. I was able to look at them, but as far as actually
- getting copies of them, he kept them and brought copies to
- the station at a later time.
- Q. Okay. I'm going to show you Exhibit 6. Do you
- 10 have Exhibit 6 in front of you?
- 11 A. Yes, sir.
- 12 Q. If you look at the first two pages, which is
- 13 front and back with the first page.
- 14 A. Mm-hm.
- 15 Q. Is that the title that Mr. Thompson showed you
- that evening? 16
- 17 A. It is a copy of the title, yes, sir.
- 18 (Plaintiff's Deposition Exhibit No. 6 was 19 identified for the record.)
- Q. (By Mr. Gelfand): And if we look at the second 20
- page of the title, meaning the back page of the title,
- does it appear to contain signatures of Nathan Rench and
- Ray Thompson? 23
- 24 A. Yes. sir.
- 25 Q. Reflecting that Ray Thompson purchased the bike

- from Nathan Rench in March of 2020?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And that same month, March of 2020, that a Mr.

92

- Kee's lien was released?
 - A. Jimmy Kee, yes, sir.
- Q. And if we look at -- it might just be easier to
- 7 look at my copy.
- A. I gotta position my long ass legs. I'm sorry.
- 9 Q. Do you see a check from Mr. Thompson to Mr. Kee
- 10 reflecting payment of that lien?
 - A. The 2175?
- 12 O. Yes.

- 13 A. Yes, sir.
- 14 Q. And did Mr. Thompson provide that to you?
- 15 A. He did.
- Q. And on the last page do you see a check, a 16
- 17 canceled check, meaning a cleared check --
- 18 A. Mm-hm.
- 19 Q. -- reflecting payment from Mr. Thompson to
- Mr. Rench in March of 2020? 20
- 21 A. I -- I do, yes, sir.
- 22 Q. With the memo line 2003 HD Trike?
- 23 A. Yes, sir.
- 24 Q. Do you see handwriting at the bottom of this
- 25 page?

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24 (Pages 93 to 96)

94 93 A. (No verbal response.) to call me back. 1 2 Q. Proof of payment, buyer paid seller check? 2 A minute or so after hanging up with her, Mr. 3 Rench called me. He admitted what he did, said that he 4 Q. Do you recognize that handwriting? did it on purpose to get the bike. He also said that 5 A. I don't. since Mr. Thompson hadn't registered the bike in 30 days 6 Q. What was your reaction when Mr. Thompson -that it was automatically his again. And he was gonna do let's back up. Is it fair to say that when Mr. Thompson whatever it took to keep the bike and not bring it back. showed all of this to you, it was clear that he owned the 8 Q. At that moment, did you wish that you had not 9 bike? let Ms. Elmore and Mr. Mackenzie take the bike? 9 10 MS. ROBERTSON: Objection, calls for legal 10 MS. ROBERTSON: Objection, relevance. 11 11 conclusion, calls for speculation. You can Answer if you know. 12 answer if you know. 12 A. If you're asking me if I second-guessed myself A. It was clear that there was more to the case 13 at that point, no. Q. I am going to show you a couple of pictures. Do than meets the eye that Amara Elmore and Mackenzie had 14 14 15 you have Exhibit 8 in front of you? 15 16 Q. (By Mr. Gelfand): What was your reaction? 16 A. Yes. 17 17 A. I was shocked, surprised. (Plaintiff's Deposition Exhibit No. 8 was 18 Q. What did you do? 18 identified for the record.) 19 Q. (By Mr. Gelfand): I will represent to you 19 A. At that point, when he showed me the documents, I stepped back. I called Amara Elmore on the telephone. 20 that's a Google Maps image from a different date, June of I told her the facts and circumstances that Mr. Thompson 21 2023 according to Google. 22 had told me and I said bring the bike back. 22 A. Okay. 2.3 At that point, Ms. Elmore said that she had 23 Q. Do you recognize that house? I'm not trying to 24 already delivered the bike to Mr. Rench and she didn't 24 trick you. Is that Mr. Thompson's house? 25 25 know where he was or where the bike was, but she would try A. Yeah. I'm just trying to make sure that -- that 95 96 1 Q. Was this the vest that you were wearing on the 1 it is. Q. Is that Mr. Thompson's house? night that you responded to Mr. Thompson's house? A. Yes. 3 A. Yes, it's the only vest I have. Outer vest, Q. Okay. Just to be clear, that's the house that specifically. you responded to? O. You testified earlier, and I understand there's no dispute about this, that your body camera was on. 6 A. Yes. 7 Q. Okay. Would you agree with me that these lights reflect that 8 A. Sorry. your body camera was on? Q. No problem. 9 9 A. Yes. The green power light is on. The red A. I'm not trying to --10 10 record light is on. On this picture, Exhibit 8, do you see a black 11 11 Q. And this depicts a walkie-talkie -- I'm sure 12 12 Jeep? there's a better name for it and a mic? 13 A. I do see a black Jeep. 13 A. Yes, sir. 14 Q. Was that the Jeep that you ran the plates for 14 Q. That is what is recorded by dispatch when you 15 and determined it was Mr. Thompson's? 15 use it? 16 A. I don't remember. 16 A. You mean, when we speak --17 Q. Okay. I'm showing you Exhibit 9. Can you tell 17 Q. Yes. me, I know it cuts off your head, but who is in Exhibit 9? A. -- on the radio? 18 18 19 A. I think that's a safe bet to say that is me, 19 Q. Correct. 20 sir. 20 A. Yes. 21 (Plaintiff's Deposition Exhibit No. 9 was 21 Q. I am going to show you what I'm going to mark as 22 identified for the record.) 22 Exhibit --23 Q. (By Mr. Gelfand): Okay. Do you recognize your 23 MR. GELFAND: What are we on, 13? 24 police vest that says your name and DSN number? 24 THE COURT REPORTER: Thirteen. 25 A. I do. It's different now, but --25 THE WITNESS: Are we done with this one,

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(Pages 97 to 100) 97 98 1 sir? 1 A. Yes, sir. 2 MR. GELFAND: Yes. 2 Q. I'm going to ask you to the best of your recall, 3 THE WITNESS: Okay. I'm sorry. I'm just 3 can you initial just with your initials, and draw a circle 4 trying to keep them all -around where the bike was? If it's on that photo? MR. GELFAND: Totally fine. 5 5 A. Do you want me to circle it and initial it? 6 6 This is identical to the one we used Q. Yeah. 7 7 A. Yes? yesterday but with those initials. 8 MS. ROBERTSON: Okay. 8 Q. Yes. 9 Q. (By Mr. Gelfand): Can you tell me if you A. I don't want to ruin evidence. 10 10 recognize what is depicted in Exhibit 13? O. You're not. A. Of course. I'm sorry. 11 A. I would say that's Mr. Rench's rear driveway 11 12 12 Q. There, you're fine. area. 13 Q. Mr. Thompson's? 13 A. (Complies.) Oh, so it's not just my pen. 14 14 A. Mr. Thompson's, I'm sorry. Yes, sir. Q. Okay. And -- thank you. 15 (Plaintiff's Deposition Exhibit No. 13 15 A. You're welcome. 16 was identified for the record.) 16 Q. So the circle represents where the bike was. 17 Q. (By Mr. Gelfand): Okay. Was that where you 17 Where were you standing, right next to it? 18 entered to locate and look at the VIN number of the 18 A. Right there. 19 Harley-Davidson as you testified? 19 Q. Okay. That's depicted with a vertical line next 20 A. Yes, sir, in this area. 20 to the circle? 21 Q. Would you agree with me that there's a large 21 A. That's -- yes. 22 Q. Okay. Where was Officer Cockrell? privacy fence surrounding the yard? 22 23 A. I do not remember where he was standing. A. Yes, sir, I would. A tall privacy fence, 6 24 24 foot, I believe. Q. Okay. I'll take that back from you. 25 25 Q. And that was there that night, too; correct? A. Sure. 99 100 Q. I'm going to show you Exhibit 11. Do you see other than providing you documents, what, if anything, did 1 Exhibit 11 in front of you? Mr. Thompson tell you? 3 A. Yes, sir, I do. 3 A. Mr. Thompson told me that he had purchased the Q. I will represent to you that Exhibit 11 is taken motorcycle from Mr. Rench two years ago, that he had paid 5 from the angle looking into where the yard is with the \$5000 for it. He also mentioned that he had paid off the

6 gate? 7

A. Mm-hm.

8 O. Is that correct?

9 A. If you're saying that it's angled looking back, 10 yes, sir.

11 (Plaintiff's Deposition Exhibit No. 11 12 was identified for the record.)

13 Q. (By Mr. Gelfand): In other words, if I'm parked 14 on the street facing the house, that's the same vantage 15 point that's depicted in that photo?

16 A. It would be if you were west of the house, yes, 17

Q. Okay. And just so we understand, was this 18 driveway what you entered to get into the backyard? 19

A. Yes, sir.

21 Q. And this fence that's depicted in here, this 22 gate, that's the threshold that you used the word to pass; 23 correct?

24 A. Yes. sir.

20

25

Q. When you went back to the house the second time,

lien from Jimmy Kee. He told me that the reason why he

had not registered it yet was because Mr. Thompson -- or

no, not Mr. Thompson, I'm sorry. Mr. Rench had applied

for a duplicate title after he had sold the motorcycle,

and he was in a dispute with the Department of Revenue and

11 Mr. Rench to try to get it rectified.

12 Q. How did you respond?

13 A. I took and wrote down the information.

14 Q. Is it fair to say, based on what he communicated

to you, that when Mr. Thompson called the police that 15

night to report his bike missing, until officers told him,

17 he had no clue the police were a part of this?

18 MS. ROBERTSON: Object to form.

19 A. I don't know. I can't answer that.

20 Q. (By Mr. Gelfand): Can you think of a single way

he would know that police were involved in this? 21

A. I can't.

2.3 Q. Did he seem surprised from what you observed

when you informed him that you were actually there with

Ms. Elmore and Mr. Mackenzie?

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26 (Pages 101 to 104)

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- 1 A. Can you rephrase the question, sir?
- 2 Q. When -- let's back up.
- 3 **A.** Okay.
- Q. Would you agree with me that when people report
- 5 a vehicle stolen, they generally don't expect that the
- 6 police had any involvement in it; right?
- 7 A. If you're speaking generally, I would say, yes, 8 you're correct.
- 9 Q. And was it your understanding that Mr. Thompson,
- 10 until you showed up that second time, got home, saw his
- 11 bike was missing and called the police?
- 12 **A. Yes, sir.**
- Q. When you informed him, as you testified a few
- 14 minutes ago, to the conversation you had when you arrived
- 15 that second time about what had transpired with respect to
- 16 you, Officer Cockrell and Ms. Elmore and Mr. Mackenzie,
- 17 did he seem surprised?
- 18 A. Surprised, no.
- 19 Q. How would you describe --
- 20 **A.** Upset, very.
- Q. Why do you say that?
- A. He had every right to be upset that his bike was
- 23 gone, but I don't remember him being really surprised. I
- 24 know that he was upset.
- Q. What, if anything, did he say to you about

- 1 entering his backyard?
 - A. I don't remember.
- 3 Q. Just to be clear what, if anything, did he say
- 4 to other officers that were present about police entering
- 5 his backyard?
 - A. I can't speak to what he told other officers
- 7 because --

6

8

- Q. That you heard?
- 9 A. I don't remember.
- Q. At any time, did you tell him anything along the
- 11 lines of we're the police, we can go anywhere?
- 12 **A. Me?**
- 13 Q. Yes.
- 14 A. No, sir.
- Q. At any time, did you hear Officer Cockrell tell
- 16 him something along the lines of we're the police, we can
- 17 go anywhere?
- 18 A. I do not remember that, no.
- Q. At any time, did you hear Sergeant Waters tell
- 20 him anything along the lines of we're the police, we can
- 21 go anywhere?
- 22 A. No, sir.
- Q. Then what happened?
- A. After receiving the call from Mr. Rench, I
- 25 immediately notified dispatch, I gave them the VIN number

103

- of the motorcycle and I also gave them Mr. Rench's
- 2 information. The motorcycle was placed out stolen and
- Mr. Rench was placed on wanted for stealing.
 - Q. And then did you leave Mr. Thompson's residence?
- 5 A. If anything transpired between that time and me 6 leaving, I don't remember.
- 7 Q. Is there anything that we haven't talked about
- 8 with respect to the second time that you recall happening
- 9 at Mr. Thompson's residence?
- 10 **A.** There was not.
- 11 MS. ROBERTSON: Objection, vague. You can answer.
- Q. (By Mr. Gelfand): Do you recall any
- 14 conversations we haven't talked about?
 - A. No, sir.

15

- Q. Do you recall any police activities that we
- 17 haven't talked about?
- 18 A. No, sir.
- 19 Q. At any time, did you interact with
- 20 Mr. Thompson's brother, Jeremiah Thompson?
- A. At any time during that call?
- 22 Q. Yes.
- 23 **A. No**
- Q. At any time, did you observe any other law
- 25 enforcement on-site interact with Jeremiah Thompson?

- 1 A. I can't answer that, because my focus was on
- 2 Mr. Thompson and getting the information and getting it
- 3 out. What Officer Cockrell and Sergeant Waters were
- 4 doing, I can't testify to that because I don't know.
 - Q. Is it fair to say that, as you said,
- 6 Mr. Thompson was rightly upset, but he was fully
- 7 cooperative with law enforcement; correct?
 - A. He was cooperative, yes.
 - Q. And on his own volition he provided you copies
- 10 of the title and the checks and everything we talked
- 11 about; correct?

5

- 12 A. Big word, "volition"?
- Q. Sorry. He chose to give that to you, you didn't
- 14 ask him for it; correct?
- A. I did ask him for it, and as I stated before, he
- had every right to make copies of it -- he didn't want to
- 17 give it to me for fear that it would disappear.
- Q. Let me back up, I mean, did he show it to you?
- 19 **A. Did he --**
- Q. Did he show it to you on his own or did you ask
- 21 him for it?
- A. He did show it to me on his own.
- Q. Okay. I think you just answered my question.
- 24 Who is James Yim?
- A. James Yim is a detective with the Department of

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(Pages 105 to 108) 105 106 **Revenue Special Investigations Unit.** O. With Manchester Police? 2 Q. I am going to show you what I am marking as 2 A. With Manchester Police, yes, sir. 3 Exhibit 6. I'm sorry. I'm not marking this as Exhibit 6. 3 Q. And in your e-mail, you ask the Department of 4 THE COURT REPORTER: Fourteen. Revenue individual, Mr. Yim, Can you please give me 5 MR. GELFAND: Exhibit 14. Thank you. everything related to the VIN on this paperwork? I'm 6 Q. (By Mr. Gelfand): Do you have recognize working a case with possible title fraud and would like to 7 Exhibit 14? know everything there is regarding this VIN. Thank you, A. (No verbal response.) sir, and have a great day, with like a hundred exclamation Q. Let me be clear, why don't we start with the 9 points. back because it's an e-mail chain. Start with the first 10 10 A. Several, yes, sir. 11 chronologically. 11 Q. Okay. You said, P.S. Detective Dowdell says Hi. 12 A. Start with this one here? PO Rob Gerholdt. And your Gerholdt -- I'm sorry, and your 13 Yes. Do you see an e-mail from you? 5375 DSN; is that correct? 14 A. Yes. A. That is correct. 14 15 Q. Is that your e-mail address? 15 Q. So this was October 27, 2022, so this was about 16 A. Yes, it is. 16 five days later; correct? O. At ManchesterMo.gov? 17 17 A. Yes, sir. 18 Yes. On the back of the police car again. 18 Q. Or maybe four days, whatever it is. But a 19 Q. To James Yim and Jason Dowdell? couple days later, correct? 19 20 A. Yes. A. Count on my finger, yes, sir. 20 21 (Plaintiff's Deposition Exhibit No. 14 21 Q. At this point are you conducting an 22 was identified for the record.) 22 investigation? 23 Q. (By Mr. Gelfand): Who is Jason Dowdell? 23 A. At this point, yes, sir, I am. 24 A. Jason Dowdell is or was, I should say, the 24 Q. And in particular, you're conducting an 25 detective on the case at the time. investigation into whether Ms. Elmore, Mr. Mackenzie 107 108 and/or Mr. Rench committed any crimes? Mr. Thompson's house? A. There was one. A. Yes, sir. 3 3 Q. At this point, are you doing anything or did you Q. When was that? do anything to preserve your body cam and dash cam A. That was February -- it was in February when the 5 footage? bike had been recovered. 6 A. No, sir. 6 Q. Okay. So let's back up. February of 2023? 7 Q. Why not? 7 A. Yes, sir. 8 A. I had no reason to. Q. So is it fair to say that from October 22nd of Q. Even though you're investigating people that are 2022 to February of 2023, Mr. Thompson did not have use of 10 allegedly -- well, possibly committing a crime on your 10 his Harley-Davidson? footage that you have video footage of? 11 MS. ROBERTSON: Objection, calls for 12 A. Right. I did not. 12 speculation. You can answer if you know. 13 Q. Special Agent Yim responds about a day later 13 A. I don't know. with the information that he has; correct? 14 Q. (By Mr. Gelfand): Let's back up for a second. 15 A. On October 28, yes, sir. I don't know if you've ever seen this. Have you ever seen 15 Q. And then on October 28, there's some 16 any Triple L towing slips? correspondence between Detective Dowdell and Mr. Yim; 17

correct? 18 19

A. Yes, sir. We done with this?

- 20 Q. Yes.
- 21 A. Okav.
- Q. Now, do you know, based on your subsequent 22
- 23 investi -- well, let's back up.
- After you left Mr. Thompson's house that night,
- were there any other times that you responded to

- A. I have not, sir. That was not part of my 18 investigation.
- 19 Q. Is it your understanding that the bike was
- 20 returned to Mr. Thompson somewhere around -- without
- 21 holding anyone to the exact date, February 16 of 2023?
- 22 A. Again, when -- from the time that the bike was
- 23 actually impounded by Owensville PD to the time that
- Mr. Thompson actually took repossession of the bike, I
- don't know.

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(Pages 109 to 112)

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- 1 Q. Do you know when Owensville PD took possession of the bike?
- 3 A. In February, that day when Mr. Thomp -- or I'm
- 4 sorry, when Mr. Rench was pulled over riding the
- 5 motorcycle and he was arrested for driving while revoked,
- and the bike was impounded because it was still stolen.
- Even though we had arrested Mr. Rench prior, I'd left the
- bike out stolen. It was impounded at that point, and then
- when they sent the hit confirmation to Manchester, that is 9
- when I responded to Mr. Thompson's house and was going to 10
- tell him that the bike had been recovered and where it was 11
- 12
- 13 Q. And did you, in fact, do that?
- A. I did. 14
- 15 Q. On what day?
- 16 A. I don't remember the day. I'd have to refer to
- 17 my report.
- Q. Do you remember approximately? 18
- A. It was in February. 19
- 20 Q. Okay. The middle of the month?
- 21 A. I don't know, sir.
- 22 Q. Okay. Is it in the report that I gave you as
- 23 Exhibit 4?

8

- 24 A. It is in the report. May I access it?
- 25 Q. Yeah, please.

- A. Somewhere under all -- there it is. 12/12/2023
- at 2030 hours, that's when I was notified by Ballwin
- 3 dispatch that the motorcycle had been recovered.
- Q. 2/12 or 12/12?
- 5 A. 2/12.

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17

- Q. Okay. Would you agree with me that correlates
- 7 with the tow slip?
 - A. It does, sir.
 - O. Okay. So bottom-line, October 22, 2023, to
- 10 February 12, 2023, represents the date range between the
- date the bike was taken from Mr. Thompson's backyard and
- the date that it was taken into the possession by
- 13 Owensville --
- A. Owensville. 14
- 15 O. Owensville PD?
- 16 A. Yes, sir.
 - Q. Okay. And at some time after that, Mr. Thompson
- had to go pick it up from Owensville and eventually did; 18
- 19 correct?
- 20 MS. ROBERTSON: Objection, calls for
- 21 speculation.
- 22 Q. (By Mr. Gelfand): Do you know?
- 23 A. After telling Mr. Thompson that the bike had
- 24 been recovered, I do not -- I don't have anything to do
- with the investigation after that. That would have been

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- 1 Detective Dowdell who orchestrated that. I do know that
- there were title issues that had to be worked out, but as
- far as him and when he actually went to -- to -- and got
- the bike back in his possession, I don't know.
- 5 Q. When you let Ms. Elmore and Mr. Mackenzie leave 6 with Mr. Thompson's 2003 Harley-Davidson, did you consider
- your investigation complete?
 - MS. ROBERTSON: Object to form.
- 9 A. Again, I wasn't conducting an investigation, but 10 I considered the call complete.
- 11 Q. I'm going to go off the record for a minute.
- 12 (Off the record.)
- 13 Q. (By Mr. Gelfand): Back on the record after a
- recess. With the exception of anything that you've
- discussed with any attorney representing you in this 15
- 16 matter, what, if anything, did you do to prepare for
- 17 today's deposition?
- 18 A. To prepare for today's deposition, I read over the police report as many times as I could. I also looked
- 20 at the directives, read over them. That's it.
- 21 Q. Did you speak with anyone other than your
- 22 attorneys about the subject matter of your deposition.
- 23 A. About the subject, no, because I had no idea
- 24 what this deposition subject matter was going to be.
- 25 Q. Well, the policy?

- 1 A. Uh-huh. Specifically, no. Meaning what it was
- about, I -- I didn't have to.
- 3 Q. Have you spoken with Officer Cockrell about his 4 deposition?
- 5
 - A. No, I haven't. I have not seen him since his
- deposition. His was yesterday; correct?
- Q. Yes. Have you spoken with Officer Cockrell
- about what transpired that night? 8 9
 - A. Any time in the last year?
- 10 Q. Yes.
- 11 A. I would say that while the case was active and
- 12 going on while we were investigating the second half of
- it, what was going on afterwords, he wouldn't -- he would 13
- have been aware of it, but specifically asking him and 14
- 15 speaking to him about what happened that night, no.
- 16 Q. At this time, I have no further questions.
- 17 MS. ROBERTSON: I have a few questions.
 - **EXAMINATION**
- 19 BY MS. ROBERTSON:
- 20 Q. Officer Gerholdt, Mr. Gelfand asked you
- regarding some things you did on October 22 of 2023 at 21
- 1209 Cottagemill, and some of those that had to do with 22
- this was running the VIN of a vehicle or possibly a Jeep 23
- 24 in the driveway. Do you recall being asked about that?
- 25 A. Yes, ma'am.

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29 (Pages 113 to 116)

backyard, you observed the VIN on the motorcycle, I

Q. And then you -- did you radio that vehicle

believe you said on the right fork; is that right?

identification number through dispatch?

113 114 Q. And you mentioned that you -- you contacted MS. ROBERTSON: I apologize. I didn't make dispatch to run the VIN. Did you -- do you recall that? 2 copies, so --3 A. On the motorcycle? 3 MR. GELFAND: That's fine. 4 Q. No, on the -- I'm sorry. Did -- with respect to 4 MS. ROBERTSON: I didn't anticipate -the vehicle in the driveway, not the motorcycle, what did 5 5 THE WITNESS: Do I need to write anything you do with respect to that vehicle? 6 A. I ran the rear license plate on the vehicle. 7 MS. ROBERTSON: Not yet. Q. Okay. And when you're running the plate on a 8 THE WITNESS: Okay. vehicle through dispatch, do you know what -- what they're 9 9 Q. (By Ms. Robertson): Officer Gerholdt, do you 10 10 have Defendants' Exhibit A in front of you? 11 A. So the REJIS computer system interacts with the 11 A. I do. Department of Revenue regarding license plates, driver's 12 Q. Okay. And do you recognize what's depicted in licenses, criminal history and everything else. It's all Defendants' Exhibit A? 13 tied in together. 14 A. I do. 15 Q. Okay. And I think Mr. Gelfand -- you know what, 15 Q. Okay. It's -- it's a photograph; correct? 16 I'm going to -- I'm going to ask you that in a minute. 16 A. Correct. 17 17 O. What's depicted? With respect to -- to running the plate on the A. This is a view from the rear area inside the 18 18 19 vehicle in the driveway, did you do anything between 19 fence -- the enclosed fenced area looking out into the 20 running that plate and -- and walking into the backyard? 20 street. 21 A. I did. After I ran the plate, I took a few 21 (Defendants' Deposition Exhibit A was 22 steps out into the grassy area where I could see into the 22 identified for the record.) 23 backyard and that's where I saw the motorcycle. 23 Q. (By Mr. Gelfand): Okay. And I'm going to mark 24 Q. Okay. I'm going to mark this as a Defendant's 24 this as Defendants' Exhibit B. And, Officer Gerholdt, 2.5 Exhibit A. Defendants' B is a photograph; correct? 115 116 1 1 A. It is. A. I was. 2 Q. Do you recognize what's depicted in Exhibit B? Q. And when you arrived at Mr. Thompson's 3 A. This is looking south on the driveway of 1209 residence, was the gate open? A. The gate was open, yes. 4 Cottagemill. 5 (Defendants' Deposition Exhibit B was 5 Q. Do you know who opened the gate? A. I do not. 6 identified for the record.) 6 7 Q. (By Ms. Robertson): Do either Exhibit A or 7 Q. Did you open the gate? Exhibit B show what you did after or show where you --8 8 A. No. where you -- where you walked after you ran the plate? 9 Q. After observing the motorcycle from the grass, 10 A. Both of them do. 10 what did you do next? Q. Okay. And can you describe for me where you 11 11 A. After observing the motorcycle from the grass, 12 walked after you ran the plate on the Jeep or vehicle that 12 that's when I entered the rear yard to check the 13 was in the driveway? 13 motorcycle. 14 A. I walked west into the grass, towards the tree, 14 Q. Mr. Gelfand later asked you about steps you may 15 and from that point I could look back into the driveway 15 have taken to investigate and he asked you something to and see the motorcycle. the effect of you did not investigate with DOR. Do you Q. Okay. Do you recall where you were -- strike 17 recall being asked that? 17 18 A. I do. 18 that. 19 19 You walked into the grass? Q. Okay. When you -- when you walked into the

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A. Yes.

A. I did.

20

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2.2

23

24

A. I did.

see the motorcycle?

the front of the house; correct?

A. That is correct.

Q. Okay. And that's not in the backyard, that's in

Q. And from that vantage point, were you able to

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(Pages 117 to 120)

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1 Q. And what does that do?

2 A. That initiates a search through the Department 3 of Revenue records for the VIN as to current ownership or 4

- if it's lost or stolen or any other information on it.
- 5 Q. Did dispatch then contact you with the result?
- 6 A. They did.
- 7 Q. What was the result?
- 8 A. The result that the VIN came back to Nathan
- 9 Rench.
- Q. The VIN did not come back to Raymond Thompson; 10
- is that correct? 11
- 12 A. That is correct.
- 13 Q. And what did that indicate to you?
- 14 A. That indicated that it belonged to Mr. Rench.
- 15 Q. And that Raymond Thompson was not the owner of
- 16 the motorcycle; correct?
- 17 A. Correct.
- 18 MR. GELFAND: Object to the form.
- 19 Q. (By Ms. Robertson): Then Mr. Gelfand later
- 20 asked you about what you did to investigate the veracity
- 21 of Ms. Elmore or Mr. Mackenzie. So in your training and
- experience as a law enforcement officer, can you tell me
- 23 what you do to assess credibility?
- 24 A. Assessing credibility starts with the first
- 25 contact with the person. How they talk to you, how they

- 1 look at you, the statements that they make, all lends to
- credibility. The -- the fact that they had a picture of
- the bike, the fact that they had a picture of the title,
- all goes towards credibility. That's why it didn't throw up any red flags.
- 6 Q. When -- in your training and experience as a law 7 enforcement officer, how can you tell someone's lying to 8 you?
- 9 A. Well, unfortunately in this case, I was lied to, 10 but for the most part they don't look at you in the eye.
- They don't have proper documents. They -- their stories
- are all over the place. They'll say one thing one second,
- then say another thing another second. They won't be able 14 to support any of their claims.
- 15 Q. Did Ms. Elmore do any of those things in this 16
- case? 17 A. She did not.
- 18 Q. You testified earlier that you saw no -- no red
- flags. What did you mean by that? 19
- 20 A. What I mean by a red flag it's just what we just
- discussed, basically how the story is that they tell, what
- 22 documents they have, are they -- are they kind of looking
- 23 like they're hiding something, are they stammering, are
- they not looking me in the eye, that kind of thing.
- 25 Q. Okay. On October 22 and October 23, the first

119

- 1 time you responded to Mr. Thompson's residence, was anyone
- present other than yourself, Officer Cockrell, Amara
- Elmore or Steven Mackenzie to the best of your knowledge?
- A. To the best of my knowledge, no, there was 4 5 nobody else there.
- 6 Q. Did you speak with Jeremiah Thompson on
- 7 October 22 of 2022? That would have been your first time
- to the residence.
- A. I did not. 9
- 10 Did you speak with Raymond Thompson at that
- 11
- 12 A. During my first visit to that house?
- 13 Q. During your first visit.
- 14 A. No, I did not.
- 15 Q. Okay. During your subsequent visit, was
- 16 Jeremiah Thompson present, to the best of your knowledge?
- 17 A. I did not know who Jeremiah Thompson was at that 18 point. He was not present as far as I know.
- 19 Q. Okay. Is Raymond -- other than law enforcement
- 20 officers during your subsequent visit, is -- is Raymond
- 21 Thompson the only individual you spoke with?
- A. When I responded back for the stolen vehicle
- 23 report, yes, Raymond Thompson was the only one I spoke 24
- with that night.
- 25 Q. Did you observe anyone else other than law

- enforcement officers and Raymond Thompson that evening?
- A. I did not. My -- my direction was -- or my attention was drawn to Mr. Thompson.
- MS. ROBERTSON: Something funny? Is
 - something funny, Mr. Gelfand?
- MR. GELFAND: Is something funny?
- 7 MS. ROBERTSON: Is something funny? You
- 8 just had a smirk on your face. I wasn't sure if
 - I could help you with anything.
- 10 MR. GELFAND: There is no smirk on my face.
- 11 You can continue asking questions.
- MS. ROBERTSON: I don't have anything 12
- 13

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- 14 MR. GELFAND: I have a couple of follow-up
- 15 questions, Officer Gerholdt.
 - FURTHER EXAMINATION
- 17 BY MR. GELFAND:
- 18 Q. Let me direct your attention to Defense Exhibits
- A and B. You testified that you were standing on a grassy
- area essentially looking into Mr. Thompson's backyard 20
- before you entered the backyard. Is that correct? 21
- 22 A. That is correct.
- Q. Is it fair to say that when you were standing 23
- 24 there on that grassy area you did not see any contraband
- in Mr. Thompson's backyard?

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(Pages 121 to 124)

121 122 1 A. Define contraband. speculation, argumentative. 2 Q. Do you know what contraband is? 2 Q. (By Mr. Gelfand): You can answer my question. A. If you're asking me if they are secured in an 3 A. I do, but I want to know your definition of it. evidence locker, then yes, sir. 4 Q. Drugs, guns, any --5 A. Knives, nuclear bombs, that kind of stuff? Q. Yes. In other words, when you seize contraband as a law enforcement officer, law enforcement takes 6 Q. Sure. 7 A. No. possession of the contraband and keeps it as evidence so 8 Q. Bottom line is you didn't see any contraband that it can be used in court; correct? A. That is correct. from where you were standing; correct? 9 10 Q. You were asked by your attorney about whether as 10 A. Again yes, no. No, you're correct. a law enforcement officer you sometimes have to assess 11 Q. Okay. Now, have you ever conducted what you credibility on the job. Did I understand that correctly? 12 have considered -- well, have you ever seized drugs or weapons from a vehicle? 13 A. Yes, you did. 14 Q. Okay. When assessing -- and you mentioned in A. In my career? 14 15 15 response to your attorney's questions certain things that Q. Yes. you sometimes use to assess credibility; correct? 16 16 A. Yes, sir. 17 Q. Have you ever done so pursuant to what's called A. Correct. 17 the "plain view doctrine"? 18 Q. Are inconsistencies with two people's stories of 18 19 the same event indicative that somebody is lying? 19 A. Yes, sir. 20 Q. When you've seized those drugs or weapons from a 20 A. No. Q. Why not? 21 vehicle under the plain view doctrine, do you seize them 21 as evidence and keep them in a law enforcement evidence 22 A. Because two people might perceive the same event 23 locker or do you give it to a random person? 23 two separate ways. 24 MS. ROBERTSON: Object -- object to form, 24 Q. Can it be indicative that somebody is lying? 25 A. Can it be? Yes. 25 calls for a legal conclusion, vague, calls for 123 124 Q. In other words, if somebody says, we showed up vantage point we're looking at into a public street; is 1 together and the other person says we showed up at the that right? bank apart, that could be suspicious; correct? 3 A. Yes. MS. ROBERTSON: Object to form, calls for 4 4 Q. Is there a sidewalk depicted in Exhibit B? 5 5 speculation, vague. A. There is -- yes. 6 A. It could be. Q. And in Plaintiff's Exhibit 13, do you see 7 Q. (By Mr. Gelfand): When determining whether pavement in that photograph? somebody is telling the truth about what happened, would a A. Yes. video of what transpired help to determine that? 9 Q. Is that the same pavement that extends from the MS. ROBERTSON: Same objection. 10 10 driveway depicted in Exhibits -- Defendants' Exhibit A and 11 A. Yes, sir. 11 12 12 MR. GELFAND: Thank you. I have no further 13 13 Q. And, in fact, in Exhibit 13, do you see a 14 MS. ROBERTSON: I -- I have just -- just a 14 vehicle parked in the corner? 15 couple. Do you -- can we go off the record for 15 A. Yes. Q. And in the upper left-hand corner of Exhibit 13 16 a second? 16 17 (Off the record.) 17 is that the gate, the threshold, you were asked about that 18 FURTHER EXAMINATION you walked through? 18 BY MS. ROBERTSON: 19 A. Yes. 19 20 Q. Officer Gerholdt, in addition to Defendants' Q. Okay. Is that the same threshold that's 20 Exhibit A and B, which you have in front of you, I'm going 21 depicted in Defendants' Exhibit A? to hand you Plaintiff's Exhibit Number 13. In Defendants' 22 A. Yes. 23 23 Exhibit A and B, do you see a driveway? Q. And in Defendants' Exhibit A, is the gate open?

24

25

Q. In Plaintiff's Exhibit 13, is the gate closed?

24

25

A. Yes.

Q. And does -- that driveway extends from the

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125	126
A. I can't tell because the sun is shining on the picture. Q. Okay. Well A. Is the gate closed, no. No, it's not. You can see it right there. Q. May I see it? Okay. Is it partially closed? A. It is partially closed, yes. Q. Okay. Thank you. No further questions? MR. GELFAND: No further questions. Do you want to read and review? MS. ROBERTSON: Yeah, we're going to we're going to read and sign. (Thereupon, the deposition of Robert Gerholdt concluded at 3:58 p.m.) (SIGNATURE WAS NOT WAIVED.) (SIGNATURE WAS NOT WAIVED.)	1 STATE OF 2 COUNTY OF 3 1, Robert Gerholdt, do hereby affirm that I have read the foregoing deposition and agree that said deposition is a true and correct representation of my testimony in this matter, with any changes I have made on the correction page. Robert Gerholdt Subscribed to before me this day of
1 ERRATA SHEET 2 RE: RAYMOND THOMPSON vs. JOSHUA COCKRELL, et al. WITNESS: ROBERT GERHOLDT 3 PG/LN NO. CORRECTION REASON FOR CHANGE 4	CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER I, Brenda L. Schmelz, Certified Verbatim Reporter-Master, CCR No. 1267, a Certified Court Reporter within and for the State of Missouri, do hereby certify that the foregoing witness, Robert Gerholdt, was duly sworn on the date indicated and that the foregoing is a true and accurate transcription of my notes and is a true record of the testimony given by the foregoing witness. I further certify that I am not employed by or related to any party to this action by blood or marriage and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 15th day of December, 2023. //s/ Brenda L. Schmelz Brenda L. Schmelz Brenda L. Schmelz, CVR-M, CCR Certified Court Reporter within and for the State of Missouri

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